Bengaluru Friday, November 21, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 321 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

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Says concept of 'deemed assent' against spirit of Constitution

No timeline for Guv or Prez to decide on Bills: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that no timeline can be fixed for Governors and the President to deal with the Bills passed by state legislatures.

It also declared that the concept of 'deemed assent' would be usurpation of the gubernatorial and the President's functions, which is antithetical not only to the spirit of the Constitution, but also specifically to the doctrine of separation of powers, a part of the basic structure.

The court's decision came on the Presidential reference made after a two-judge bench's April 8 verdict fixing a timeframe for Governors and the President to give assent to the Bills passed by state Assemblies.

A five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, however, said that in glaring circumstances of inaction that is prolonged, unexplained, and indefinite, the court can issue a limited mandamus for the Governor to discharge their functions under Article 200 of the Constitution within a reasonable time period. This will be without making any observations on the merits of the exercise of Governor's discretion.

The court found that the imposition of timelines would be contrary to the "elasticity" that the Constitution so carefully preserved.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and Atul C Chandurkar, in its unanimous opinion said the Governor — in exercising the options to give assent, reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President, or withhold assent and return the Bill to the legislature with comments — enjoyed discretion and is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers on this matter.

"The concept of accountability, and checks and balances, courses through the provisions of the Constitution. Thus, the legislature, which represents the people's will, is only effective if the Governor acts under Article 200. This is not to say that the Governor is merely a rubber stamp, between a Bill becoming an Act. There is value, in his consideration, and thus, choice exercised between the three options before him under Article 200," the bench said.

In her reference, President Droupadi Murmu on May 13 raised 14 questions following the April 8 judgment.

▸ Supreme Court, Page 10A

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Guvs have three options under Article 200 – to grant assent to Bills, refer them to Prez or withhold assent and send them back to Assembly

- Guvs enjoy discretion in choosing from these 3 options
- Guvs are not bound by aid and advice of council of ministers while exercising powers under Article 200
- Guvs can't sit over Bills beyond the powers granted to them under Article 200
- But fixing timelines for governors is against elasticity provided by Constitution
- Even Article 142 doesn't allow for the concept of 'deemed assent' of Bills
- In glaring circumstances, the court can issue a limited mandamus for the guv
- There is absolute bar on judicial review in relation to personally subjecting the guv to judicial proceedings
- Governors continue to enjoy personal immunity, but their constitutional office is subject to court's jurisdiction

"In the absence of constitutionally prescribed time limits, and the manner of exercise of power by the Governor, it would not be appropriate for this court to judicially prescribe timelines for the exercise of powers under Article 200"
Supreme Court

DH DECIPHERS Prez, Guvs and Bills: What SC said on assent & delay P9

Trump claims Modi told him India not going to war with Pak

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India would not go to war with Pakistan, US President Donald Trump has quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi as telling him during the cross-border military flare-up between the two South Asian nations in May.

Trump also said he threatened to impose 350% tariffs on the two countries to bring them back from the brink of a nuclear war and his actions were intended to prevent "nuclear dust" from "floating over Los Angeles".

The US president reiterated his claim about brokering the May 10 ceasefire between India and Pakistan while speaking at the US-Saudi Investment Forum in Washington on Wednesday.

Though he has been repeating the claim since May 10 itself, this was the first time Trump quoted Modi as telling him that India would not go to war with Pakistan.

▸ Trump, Page 10A

Dharmasthala SIT submits report to court, names 6 for 'conspiracy'

4,000-page report only preliminary, say officials

MANJUSHREE G NAIK
UDUPI, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala mass burial case on Thursday submitted a six-volume report at a local court in Beltangady, accusing six persons of conspiring to mislead the court.

The report, spanning 4,000 pages and prepared under Section 215 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), was filed before Beltangady JMFC and Civil Judge H T Vijayendra.

The accused named in the report are the complainant-witness, activists Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Girish Mattannavar, T Jayanth and Vittal Gowda, and Sujatha Bhat.

SIT officials, however, said it was only a preliminary report.

The case revolves around the allegations of mass burial in the temple town of Dharmasthala, circumstances leading to the alleged burials and suppression of evidence.

▸ SIT, Page 10A

Workers prepare to dig one of the sites pinpointed by the complainant-witness in the Dharmasthala case. DH FILE PHOTO

Report to be made public?

Though the Beltangady court had told the SIT not to make the report public without its nod, the court is expected to grant approval to either release it or provide copies to the accused, sources said.

Woman dies after accident on damaged road

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman riding pillion on a friend's two-wheeler fell off and was run over by a lorry in Hulimavu, South Bengaluru, on Thursday evening, according to traffic police.

Shantamma (46) was returning home with her colleague Nizam around 4.30 pm when he lost control while navigating a badly damaged stretch of road. She fell off the two-wheeler, and a speeding lorry coming from behind ran her over, killing her on the spot, a traffic police officer said.

The Hulimavu traffic police have registered a case of death by negligence and detained the lorry driver, identified as Venkatesh, for further investigation.

Details on Page 2

Nitish begins 10th innings as Bihar CM

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Janata Dal (United) national president Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar chief minister for the 10th time on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP Nadda and other senior NDA leaders at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan.

However, Nitish, who is reportedly not in the best of his health, stammered thrice during his swearing-in, thereby raising many an eyebrow. Though Governor Arif Mohammad Khan did not insist on a repeat of the oath (due to the folly), the 'faux pas' set the rumour mills abuzz with the moot point: how long will Nitish continue as Bihar CM, given his present state of health?

PM Narendra Modi and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar in Patna on Thursday. PTI

Continuing the arrangement in the previous government, the Cabinet will have two deputy CM from the BJP — Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha. Both were among the 26 ministers sworn in today, besides Nitish.

▸ Nitish Kumar, Page 10A
Related reports, Page 8

Delhi dash: 6 MLAs meet Kharge, pitch for DKS as CM

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid the leadership tussle in Karnataka, a group of Congress MLAs loyal to Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar met party national president Mallikarjun Kharge in the national capital on Thursday and urged him to make Shivakumar the CM by replacing incumbent Siddaramaiah.

The MLAs loyal to Shivakumar — Gubbi MLA Srinivas, Sringeri MLA T D Rajegowda, Kunigal MLA H D Ranganath, Anekal MLA B Shivanna, Kudachi MLA Mahendra Kallappa Tammannavar and MLC C Ravi — were closeted with Kharge for 10 minutes.

These leaders requested the Congress president to make Shivakumar the CM to honour the rumoured power-sharing pact. "We have told Kharge that Shivakumar, being the KPCC president, worked hard to bring the party to power. So he should be rewarded with the Chief Minister's post," an MLA told *DH*.

▸ DKS, Page 5A

Suresh reminds CM of his 'promise'

Bangalore Milk Union Ltd president DK Suresh reminded CM Siddaramaiah that he should not welch on his promise, a statement seen as a calculated move on the political chessboard.

Details on Page 5A

IndiGo
Visit Malaysia 2026 Truly Asia
IndiGo to Malaysia
From India to island life.
Now visa-free till end of December 2026.
Save up to 10%* when you book flights on goIndiGo.in
Use code 6EMYS
Penang
Scan to book
*T&C apply.

Red Fort blast: NIA arrests 4 more people

The NIA has arrested four more "key accused" in the Red Fort blast case, taking the total number of arrests to six as the probe into what officials describe as a "white-collar terror module" widens across J&K and UP.

P 8

Core infra output worst in 14 months

Core infrastructure sector recorded its worst performance in 14 months in October, with flat overall production dragged by a sharp drop in output of electricity, coal, natural gas and crude oil, official data showed.

P 12

J&K office of newspaper raided

Jammu & Kashmir Police's investigation agency on Thursday raided the Jammu office of the Kashmir Times, prompting its editors to denounce the move as an attempt to "intimidate and silence" the daily.

P 8

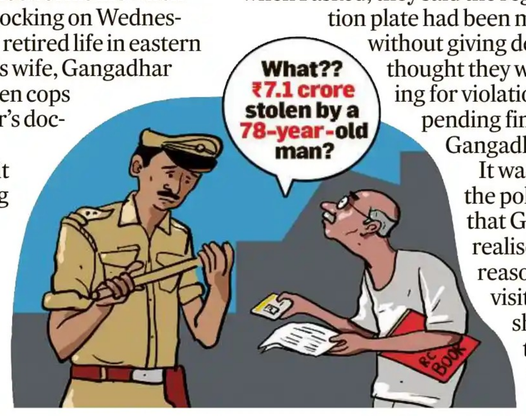
PLATE JOLT

Robbers steer car owner into trouble after heist

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Seventy-eight-year-old P B Gangadhar had the shock of his life when cops came knocking on Wednesday. Living a quiet retired life in eastern Bengaluru with his wife, Gangadhar was perplexed when cops asked to see his car's documents.

Assuming that it was about pending traffic fines, Gangadhar did as asked and showed the documents to the traffic police inspector who was accompanied by three-four police personnel.



"I showed them the documents and they took the required photographs. They didn't tell me about the robbery. when I asked, they said the registration plate had been misused, without giving details. I thought they were checking for violations or pending fines," said Gangadhar.

It was only after the police left that Gangadhar realised the reason for their visit. "I was shocked to learn about the robbery when I turned on the TV. I was scared," Gangadhar told *DH*.

Gangadhar owns the Maruti Suzuki Swift whose number plate was misused by robbers who fled with Rs 7.11 crore from a cash van in a brazen heist.

The Bengaluru resident said he stopped driving the car long ago.

Gangadhar, who worked for five years at Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), spent a decade in Dubai and later ran a hardware business in Bengaluru, bought the hatchback in 2018. The car now remains parked at his house.

"The robbers may have randomly swiped my number plate. I don't take that car out anymore since I have health issues. For 10 years now, I've been mostly at home. Our only daughter, who lives abroad, supports us," he said.

▸ Robber, Page 10A

Eatery worker arrested for sexually harassing, robbing woman

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jnanabharathi police arrested a 21-year-old eatery worker on Wednesday for allegedly sexually harassing and robbing a woman who was walking her dog on November 7.

The accused, Vignesh alias Vikki, is a resident of Ullala Upanagar and also worked as a cleaner at wedding halls.

Police said the woman, a lawyer, reported that at 10.30 am, while walking her dog near Upakar Layout, the accused approached her, asked to pet the dog, and began talking to it. When she pulled her dog away, the man touched her inappropriately. He tried again, but she slapped him.

In the ensuing commotion, the woman's phone slipped from her hand. As she screamed, the man grabbed her phone and fled.

Police have registered a case under relevant BNS sections for assault, sexual harassment, theft, and voluntarily causing hurt.

A senior police officer said the accused was identified using CCTV footage.

During interrogation, Vignesh confessed that he panicked when the woman screamed for help and fled with her mobile phone, worth Rs 25,000, which has since been recovered. He claimed he had no intention of stealing the phone.

'Model Neighbourhood' initiative launched

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, a socio-religious organisation, has launched a nationwide campaign titled 'Model Neighbourhood, Model Society' to promote mutual care, cooperation, discipline, cleanliness, and other social responsibilities among neighbours.

Held from November 21 to 30, the campaign will feature lectures, neighbourhood meetings, traffic-awareness drives, and cultural events.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Government First Grade College: Talk on the relevance of Gandhi's ideology by SG Siddaramaiah; College premises, Peenya 1st Stage; from 9.30 am onwards.

CULTURAL

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: 'Santavani'-Screening of films, launch of books, staging of play and lectures; Khincha Hall, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 10 am.

Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati Pradhikara: Deepa Bhasthi to speak on translation; Pradhikara premises, Kalagarama, Mallattahalli; 5 pm.

Bengaluru Gayana Samaja: Celebrating Karnataka's artistes; Samaja premises, KR Road; 10 am.

Adishakti School of Bharatanatyam: Arangetram by Nityashree Manikanthan; Viveka Auditorium, Yuvaka Sangha, Jayanagar; 6pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	19.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	84%
Sunset (Nov 21)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 22)	6:20 am
Moonrise	6:13 am
Moonset	5:46 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Dr. Lakshmipathi T.L.

Joint Director of Town and Country Planning and Member Secretary, Bangalore International Airport Area Planning Authority (BIAAPA), Bengaluru has been awarded **Ph.D.** in Urban and Regional Planning by the University of Mysore (UoM), Mysuru, for his thesis "**Planning Imperatives of Village Peripheral Areas in Bangalore Metropolitan Region: A Study of Bengaluru International Airport Planning Area**" submitted under the guidance of **Prof. Dr. H.N. Nagendra.**

Cash van heist: Robbers swapped vehicles, dodged detection, says HM

Officials are scanning citywide CCTV to verify if suspects are local or outsiders

BENGALURU, DHNS

Police investigating the daylight cash van heist found that the suspects switched vehicles and changed number plates to evade detection.

Briefing reporters in Bengaluru, Home Minister G Parameshwara said investigators are following strong leads and the suspects will be arrested. He explained that the suspects changed vehicles during their escape, but it remains unclear which vehicle was ultimately used.

Investigators confirmed the use of multiple vehicles and are verifying if any left the state.

The Toyota Innova used carried the registration number of a Maruti Suzuki Swift, he added.

Officials are checking citywide CCTV footage and verifying whether the suspects are local or from outside the city. The investigation is ongoing, Parameshwara said.

On November 19 afternoon, suspects posing as RBI officials intercepted a CMS Info Systems armoured cash van near Jayanagar and robbed it at the Dairy Circle flyover, reportedly holding driver Binod Kumar at gunpoint. The suspects also took the van's DVR recorder, the FIR stated.

Police have questioned Kumar, cash custodian Aftab, and armed guards Rajanna and Thammaiah.

Sources told *DH* that aside from the Innova, police suspect at least two other vehicles — a Maruti Suzuki Zen and a Maruti Suzuki Wagon R — were used for the getaway. The Innova, reportedly used soon after the robbery, was recovered by investigators in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday, where they suspect the robbers went immediately following the heist.

The seized cash van at the Siddapura police station on Thursday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Prior reconnaissance?

During the investigation, teams of officials scoured several hours of footage from hundreds of CCTVs in the area of the heist.

Sources told *DH* that investigators suspect two days before the heist, on November 17, two members of the gang may have reconnoitered the spot in JP Nagar where the van leaves after being loaded with cash.

CCTV footage analysed by police showed the probable suspects entering a bar around 1.28 pm and leaving 10 minutes later, sources said.

FIR on dacoity charges

Based on a complaint by Vinod Chandrar, 47, CMS Info Systems branch manager, Siddapura police registered an FIR against five to six unknown persons under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 310 (dacoity) and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence or giving false information), and the Arms Act.

Elections to city wards await roll revision, ward reservation

State poll body sets 90-day deadline; Jan 29 target for final publication

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government has notified boundaries for 369 wards in Bengaluru, but two key hurdles remain for the long-delayed elections to the five new corporations.

Revision of electoral rolls and ward reservation — both politically sensitive — are the next steps and are expected to take time.

On October 29, the State Election Commission (SEC) issued a circular to revise electoral rolls, including staff training, modifications, and house-to-house verification. The SEC set a 90-day deadline, with January 29 as the target for final publication.

A 16-day delay in final ward notification by the state government has pushed back the SEC's timeline. The commission now plans to take 90 days from receipt of ward boundaries to complete the process.

Roll revision is complicated as the SEC cannot use the state assembly rolls due to changed boundaries. New boundaries must be matched with updated rolls. Several polling booths have been split across wards, complicating the process.

Once the electoral rolls are revised and wards reserved, the State Election Commission (SEC) needs about 45 days to prepare for elections. If all goes as planned, polls may be held in April.

State election officials say they can finish the roll revision in 90 days, with delays unlikely to exceed 10 days.

A senior Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) official said 28 Electoral Registration Officers were trained on November 1, but the process was paused pending final ward boundaries. "We will start afresh as per the SEC's instructions," he said, adding that there are about 7,800 polling stations under the GBA.

Citizens will be able to apply to add or delete their names during the revision.

The government must also announce ward reservations for SCs, STs, OBCs, and women, who are expected to get 50% of the 369 seats.

Once rolls are revised and wards reserved, the SEC needs about 45 days to prepare for elections. If all goes as planned, polls may be held in April next year.

Abdul Wajid, former Congress councillor, expressed hope that elections to the five corporations would take place, noting the matter is being monitored by the Apex Court.

"The deputy chief minister has announced that ward reservation will be declared in December. The government has submitted an affidavit detailing the timeline to the Supreme Court. The party is planning to collect names of aspirants. The elections will surely be held," he said.

Wajid added that other states are also conducting local body elections after a long delay.

Woman dies after accident on badly damaged road

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's bad roads have allegedly claimed another life.

A 46-year-old woman riding pillion on a friend's two-wheeler fell off and was run over by a truck in Hulimavu, South Bengaluru, on Thursday evening, according to traffic police.

Shantamma (46) was returning home with her colleague Nizam around 4.30 pm when he lost control while navigating a badly damaged stretch of road.

She fell off the two-wheeler, and a speeding truck coming from behind ran her over, killing her on the spot, a traffic police officer said.

The Hulimavu traffic police have registered a case of death by negligence and detained the truck driver, identified as Venkatesh.

Shantamma, a native of Gokak, Belagavi district, lived with her son in Kammanahalli and worked as a housekeeper at an apartment complex, police added.

Despite civic authorities claiming to have filled most of the city's potholes at a cost of Rs 1,100 crore, police said the stretch where the accident occurred remained badly damaged and covered with loose gravel.

The deadline for completing the work — initially set for October 31 by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah — was later revised to November 10.

Citizens have raised concerns over the poor quality of the repair work, pointing out that potholes have already resurfaced on several stretches, undermining the purpose and quality of the recent fixes.

GBA chief defends sweeping machine plan; promises transparency in tendering

BENGALURU, DHNS : GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Thursday defended the government's decision to hire 46 mechanical sweeping machines at an estimated cost of Rs 613 crore, saying the move followed "a full year of deliberation" and detailed technical evaluation.

Maheshwar Rao

Addressing reporters, Rao said the GBA had studied both truck-mounted and self-propelled models, reviewed the performance of existing machines, and carried out "detailed verification" of maintenance requirements.

"Buying machines may appear cheaper upfront, but maintenance costs and the need for in-house technical staff make it more expensive in the long run. Hiring ensures the supplier becomes a stakeholder in performance," he said.

Rao added that the GBA had analysed indicative prices of machines available on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), including those from Dulveo, Bucher and local manufacturers. "Eighteen per cent GST is included in the project cost. If GST is waived, the overall expenditure will drop by nearly Rs 100 crore," he said.

He noted that the cabinet had approved the project based on a broad hiring framework, after which the GBA would now float tenders. "If high-quality machines are offered at lower rates, we will procure them. All companies are free to participate," Rao said, adding that the project also requires hook loaders and separate vehicles to transport collected dust.

The machines will primarily be deployed on arterial and main roads where manual sweeping is difficult, he said.

Amid criticism over the project cost, the GBA has decided to publish detailed calculation sheets and cost breakdowns of the sweeping machines on its website.

Skating, cycling at Lalbagh to attract Rs 500 fine

BENGALURU, DHNS

Playing with branches, skating, and shooting reels inside Lalbagh may now attract a fine of Rs 500.

Visitors to the Lalbagh Botanical Garden this weekend will have to follow a fresh set of rules. Anyone playing with branches, flying kites, or attempting to skate is likely to attract a fine of Rs 500.

A notification issued last week by the state government notes that Lalbagh, a designated botanical garden and green lung space dedicated to conserving the city's floral wealth, will now enforce stricter rules to protect its plant collection.

As per the notification, activities such as hawking, putting up hoardings, group yoga, climbing trees, plucking flowers, feeding birds and fish, and organising walkathons and marathons will draw a fine of Rs 500.

Skating and cycling, which are allowed in Cubbon Park, remain prohibited at Lalbagh. Entry of pets is also not allowed.

WHAT YOU CAN'T DO

- Bringing & consuming outside food
- Walkathons, marathons, cycling & skating
- Begging, collecting bribes & fortune-telling
- No entry for pets
- Group yoga sessions
- Meetings, social events & press conferences
- Birthday celebrations
- Climbing trees, plucking flowers & playing on branches
- Drone photography
- Photo and video shoots for reels, baby and bridal showers, modelling & pre/post wedding shoots
- Private vehicles
- Sound systems & musical instruments
- Smoking and drinking alcohol

"These are not new rules. Most of them already existed within the Lalbagh premises, but we had difficulty enforcing them as visitors would often ask for a government order. Now, with an order in place, we can enforce these rules more efficiently," Balakrishna, Deputy Director (Lalbagh Gardens), Horticulture Department, told *DH*. Boards with the new regulations are being set up.

The notification lists 33 prohibitions, including begging and fortune-telling. Birthday parties and video shoots are also prohibited. Visitors will be fined if they use park equipment such as light poles and benches to exercise.

Walking and jogging will be allowed during fixed hours — from 5.30 am to 9 am, and from 4.30 pm to 7 pm.

Activities allowed with permission include flower exhibitions, government awareness programmes, amateur wildlife and nature photography, and health check-up camps.

Under digital arrest for 2 weeks, retired colonel loses Rs 56 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: A retired army colonel was cheated of Rs 56 lakh after cybercriminals kept him under "digital arrest" for nearly two weeks by impersonating Mumbai police officers.

According to the FIR, on October 27, the 83-year-old Bengaluru resident received a call from someone claiming to be Inspector Sanjay Pishe from Mumbai, who alleged that a SIM card in the colonel's name had been used to send abusive messages and demanded he travel to Mumbai for an inquiry.

When he said he was unable to travel, the caller passed the phone to a woman posing as a senior officer, Kavitha Poomame, who directed him to speak to "officer" Vishwas, over a video call.

Vishwas questioned him, sought his family and bank details, and warned him not to inform anyone, saying he would otherwise be arrested. He was made to give location updates every three hours.

Between October 27 and November 12, the colonel transferred Rs 56.05 lakh after being told the money was needed for "RBI verification". He was also instructed to liquidate mutual funds and savings on the promise the money would be returned within three days.

When the calls stopped, he approached the police. The Central Cybercrime Police registered a case on November 18 and have begun an investigation.

Dr Sabitha Ramamurthy, Chancellor of CMR University; Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport and Muzrai; and Dr KC Ramamurthy, Chairman of CMR Group of Institutions and CMR University, felicitate a student during the Founder's Day celebrations in Bengaluru.

CMR Founder's Day: Scholarships, awards & academic block unveiled

BENGALURU, DHNS: CMR Group of Institutions and CMR University, one of Bengaluru's leading private universities, celebrated their 34th Founder's Day with the inauguration of a new academic block and the felicitation of outstanding student achievers.

At the ceremony, 207 CMR scholarships, 18 sports scholarships, and 22 leadership awards were presented. In addition, 2,112 students received scholarships in the form of fee concessions.

During the inauguration, Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "The scholarships and awards presented today reflect the CMR Group's steadfast commitment to nurturing young talent and shaping future leaders."

In his address, Dr KP Gopalankrishna, Chairman of NPS Group of Institutions, NAFL, and TISB, stressed that as technology — especially AI — reshapes education, students must use it with discipline rather than dependence.

The new academic block was inaugurated by Ramalinga Reddy, Dr KP Gopalakrishna, and Dr C Honappa Gowda, international kabaddi player and Arjuna awardee.

Also present were Dr KC Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd), former Rajya Sabha member and Chairman of CMR Group of Institutions and CMR University; KC Jaganath Reddy, Secretary, CMR Jnanadhara Trust; Dr Sabitha Ramamurthy, Chancellor, CMR University; Jayadeep KR Reddy, CEO, CMR Group of Institutions and Pro-Chancellor, CMR University; Dr Tristha Ramamurthy, Founder of Ekya Schools and Vice-President, CMR Group of Institutions; and Dr HB Raghavendra, Vice-Chancellor, CMR University.

HERITAGE NEGLECT

Basavanagudi residents flag poor sanitation at Kadlekai Parishe; petition GBA

BENGALURU, DHNS

Basavanagudi residents have complained of mounting garbage and poor sanitation during the ongoing Kadlekai Parishe.

The annual groundnut fair began in Basavanagudi on Monday and is on till Friday, drawing farmers and vendors from across and beyond Karnataka.

The Heritage Basavanagudi Residents Welfare Forum has petitioned Greater Bengaluru Authority's West Corporation Commissioner Rajendra KV over poor sanitation and uncollected garbage, contrary to the GBA's earlier claim of cleaning twice in a day.

"There is no proper waste management, and the toilet facilities are poor. Hygiene is severely lacking, making it difficult for the residents in and around the fair area to step out of their houses," said Guruprasad RK, the forum's secretary.

Jurisdiction issue?

"We have also reached out to the GBA regarding this, as there seems to be a jurisdiction issue. While the actual temple lies under the purview of the West Corporation, some of the area around it where the festival is taking place comes under the Central Corporation. But when we had meetings about the Kadlekai Parishe, the Central Corporation was not involved," he added.

Crowds throng Bull Temple Road on Thursday, for the fourth day of Kadlekai Parishe. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

'Repeat of last year'

A similar scenario had unfolded during the fair last year, he mentioned, which prompted residents to pool funds to hire cleaners.

Before the fair began on Monday, the residents' forum had written to Muzrai and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, suggesting measures to ensure cleanliness and order during this year's Kadlekai Parishe.

The residents have also complained that while the fair officially began on Monday, vendors set up shop three days earlier, adding to the growing lack of cleanliness.

"No efforts have been made to protect the heritage sites in the area. The Kempegowda-era city border pillars, now widely circulated on social media and drawing crowds, lack proper barricading and are at risk of damage," Guruprasad added.

Officials of the GBA West Corporation did not respond to *DH*'s calls.

Church Street, Brigade Road footpaths cleared

BENGALURU, DHNS: GBA officials, along with Cubbon Park police, removed stalls encroaching pedestrian pathways at Church Street and Brigade Road.

Senior officials supervised the operation, which follows repeated warnings to shop owners and a similar drive last year.

"Tippers and tractors were deployed and materials kept on the pavement were seized. We have booked the shop owners," said a senior police officer.

Vocal concert tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira, in association with Swara Sethu Foundation, will organise a vocal concert at 5.30 pm on Saturday at 9th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage. It will feature Venkat Ayalur (vocals), CV Shruthi (violin), BS Anand (mridanga), and B Abhijith (morsing).

Now, govt schools to open social media accounts

Measure to boost admissions at state-run schools

BENGALURU, DHNS

In an effort to bring state-run schools on a par with private ones, the state government has asked every government school to open social media accounts.

In a set of instructions released to the government schools to increase enrollment for 2026-27 academic year, the department of School Education and Literacy has instructed the head masters of the schools to ensure that the school has a presence on social media.

The department has launched an admission campaign from the current month itself to draw more students for government schools. The campaign will last till June 2026. During the campaign, the teachers, members of the School Development and Monitoring Committees and other stakeholders have been asked to educate parents about the facilities provided at the government schools and convince them to admit their children at government schools.

A renovated century-old government model school at Kamalapur in Dharwad district. DH FILE PHOTO

Meanwhile, considering the impact of social media, the department has decided that government schools in rural areas too should have social media accounts.

"Schools should open accounts on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and X. These platforms should be used to popularise the schools by posting facilities available, student talents, enrollment details, board exam results and other day-to-day activities," instruction says.

"Several alumni of government schools have scaled new heights. Posting videos of and information about such old students on social media will help to attract more admissions," said a senior official of the department.

Meanwhile, the department has decided to restart summer camps at government schools from 2026-27 academic year. In the guidelines, the department has instructed the schools to organise summer camps in May.

Closure of foreign varsities: K'taka to seek clarity from Centre

SEP not applicable to foreign universities: Min Sudhakar

BENGALURU, DHNS

As a number of foreign universities are interested in setting up their campuses in Karnataka, the state government has decided to write to the University Grants Commission (UGC) seeking clarity on student grievances, in case they wind up the campus suddenly.

Addressing a news conference here, on Thursday, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar directed his department officials to study the conditions imposed by the UGC for foreign universities and submit a report.

"In the event of sudden wind up of the campus, there is no clarity on the future of the students as foreign universities are not in the control of the state government. We will write to the UGC seeking clarity on the same," Sudhakar said.

The minister further mentioned that the state government was only facilitating and had no control on foreign universities. "If we impose restrictions, they will go to some other state. But in the interest of students, we need to get clarity from the UGC," he added.

Sudhakar said that foreign universities setting up their campuses in Karnataka would be beneficial for native students as many cannot afford to study abroad by spending a lot of money. "If the same university is offering the same degree on our own land with less expense, it will be advantageous for our students," he added.

Replying to a question, Sudhakar clarified that the State Education Policy (SEP) would not be applicable to foreign universities. "When we don't have that right on Private and Deemed-To-Be Universities, how can we impose it on foreign universities? They have all the liberty to choose the policy and also the curriculum," he added.

Sharing details after meeting the delegation led by UK minister for Indo Pacific Seema Malhotra, Sudhakar said that he had requested the UK government to increase the number of students eligible for the Chevening Scholarship Programme from Karnataka.

"We have also proposed dual degree programmes at our universities in collaboration with universities from the UK," the minister said.

SEP report: No action from Cong govt to fulfill its poll promise

BENGALURU, DHNS

Even three months after the State Education Policy (SEP) commission submitted its report, there is no action from the Congress government to implement the same.

Despite repeated reminders from Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar, the officials in his department have not taken measures to constitute an expert committee to review the report, which has to be placed before the Cabinet for further action.

It was an embarrassing moment for Sudhakar when reporters asked him about the SEP review committee report on Thursday and his department officials, including the principal secretary, were not aware of the committee that the minister was talking about.

The minister then went on to brief principal secretary Khushboo Choudhary about the formation of the review committee.

"As per the directions of the chief minister, we need to form a committee to review the report and the same has to be placed before the Cabinet," Sudhakar told the principal secretary.

Clarifying on the same, Sudhakar said, "We have been asked to submit the report in a concise format. We will form a committee in two days and a report will be placed before the Cabinet in next two months".

Coming to the rescue of his department officials, Sudhakar said, "The principal secretary of the higher education department was changed three times in the last few months and that could be the reason for the confusion regarding the formation of the review committee".

The minister said that the report would be put in the public domain once it was available in concise format.

It can be recalled that the rejection of the National Education Policy and implementation of SEP was one of the major poll promises of the Congress.

Soon after coming to power, the Congress government constituted a commission to frame the SEP and appointed former University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Sukhadeo Thorat as its head.

The commission submitted the final report to the government on August 9, 2025.

K'taka announces 50% rebate on pending traffic and RTO fines

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka has announced a 50% rebate on pending traffic and transport fines.

The rebate — valid from November 21 to December 12 — applies to all traffic e-challans and RTO cases filed between 1991-92 and 2019-20.

This is the fifth time the state government has offered such a rebate on traffic challans to encourage more vehicle owners to clear their dues. Thousands of vehicle owners have already paid up pending fines, contributing crores of rupees in revenue.

Traffic fines can be paid on the Karnataka State Police (KSP) app, the Bengaluru Traffic Police's (BTP) ASTraM app, at the nearest traffic police station or the Traffic Management Centre or via the KarnatakaOne and BangaloreOne websites.

Yogeesh AM, Commissioner for Transport and Road Safety, said fines related to his departments must be paid at the RTOs.

"We don't issue e-challans, so there's no online payment system," he told *DH*.

The department estimates Rs 52 crore in pending RTO fines up to March 2020. "With the 50% rebate, we expect to collect Rs 25 crore if all dues are cleared," he added.

German exam centre launched

BENGALURU DHNS: To strengthen Indo-German cooperation in healthcare sector, the government has set up a new Telc (The European Language Certificate) German language exam centre at Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI) in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru Urban district most unsafe in state for kids, says rights index

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Urban district has failed when it comes to protection of child rights, reveals the Child Rights Index of Karnataka.

The report for 2023, released on Thursday, was a study conducted by S Madheswaran and B P Vani of Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) in collaboration with Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

It is based on child labour, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and crimes on children.

Bengaluru was unprotective of child rights, because of its urban nature, the report said.

Other districts with low performance when it comes to protection of child rights are Kolar, Vijayapura, Gadag and Belagavi. Districts like Kodagu and Udupi emerged safest for children.

The report was prepared considering six indicators: Right to life, right to enabling environment to live, right to nutrition, protection, education and participation.

Best performing districts without including the participation index (as it varies for urban and rural areas) are Udupi, Mandya, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu and Bengaluru Rural.

Chikkamagaluru, Shivamoga, Mysuru, Hassan and Chamarajanagar districts are among the top 10. The bottom five districts are Kolar, Yadgir, Raichur, Ballari and Dharwad.

Crimes under POCSO Act are registered more in Belagavi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Tumakuru, Bengaluru, Hassan, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru and Chikkaballapur.

Bengaluru even topped when it comes to crimes against children followed by Mysuru, Mandya, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Belagavi, Dakshina Kannada, Chikkaballapur and Ramanagar. In Bengaluru, crime rate against children is eight times higher than other districts.

Yadgir, Gadag, Chitradurga, Davanagere and Chikkaballapur are among those having very low level of realisation with respect to right to education.

"Kalaburagi, Raichur and Haveri districts are classified as having low realisation and these districts must handle right to education more effectively," reads the report.

In terms of right to nutrition, over 70% of children in seven districts, primarily in Kalyana Karnataka, suffer from anaemia.

The anaemia status in 14 districts is between 60% and 70%, while incidence of anaemia in the remaining 9 districts, primarily from Mysuru and partially from Bengaluru divisions, was between 50% and 60%.

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Work on TB dam's new gates may rob paddy farmers of rabi crop

No water for 2nd crop to halt wheels of rice economy in 4 KK dists

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

From farm workers to rice mills, lorry & tractor owners, agro-chemical dealers and hamals at APMC yards, everyone in the rice economy of the four districts of Kalyana Karnataka will be hit if there is no second crop in the Tungabhadra command area this rabi season. DH FILE PHOTO

The economy in the rice belt of Raichur, Ballari, Koppal and Vijayanagar districts is likely to be hit as the Tungabhadra irrigation consultative committee (TBICC) has decided to stop releasing water for the second crop from January 10.

This is in the light of the work on replacing 33 crest gates of the TB dam set to begin from December-end. Replacing the gates has become imminent after the 19th crest gate was washed away in August last year.

Farmers in the region cultivate paddy in rabi season between December and May.

Owners of around 300 hundred rice mills in the region will have to shut down operations if the paddy produce doesn't come to them for processing it into rice.

The rice mill owners' association said over 10,000 permanent employees and an equal number of temporary workers will be affected. Farm labourers will be forced to migrate to other places for a living, it said.

Hamals working in APMC yards will be rendered jobless in the absence of rice arrivals, it said.

"Mills have fixed expenses like salaries, bank loan instalments and other maintenance costs. We cannot bring paddy from other states due to high transportation cost. We would have got paddy this season if crest gates were replaced on time," association state president Savitri Purushottam said.

Paddy is grown on around 6 lakh acres with water from both right and left Tungabhadra canals in these districts.

Farmer leaders and rice mill owners said around 18 lakh tonnes of paddy is produced in one season due to which there is business turnover of over Rs 3,000 crore.

"Release of water from the dam would have helped farmers get a second crop in 3-4 months. Now, lakhs of people including lorry and tractor owners, agro-chemical dealers, farm labourers will suffer if there is no paddy crop this rabi season. Scientists of agriculture universities and officials have failed to guide farmers on alternative crops," farmer leader Chamaras Malipatil said.

Rotate crops for soil fertility, say scientists

Cultivation of only paddy for decades with no crop rotation has reduced soil fertility in TB dam's command areas.

Agri scientists say saline-alkaline stress has reduced crop productivity in the region, which accounts for 50% of Karnataka's total rice production.

They suggested turning this crisis into an opportunity by switching to alternative crops like black gram, millets, mustard, maize, chickpea, sunflower and green gram.

"The saline-alkaline stress has reduced crop productivity by 20% on over one lakh hectares of the total 3.5 lakh hectares in the region's paddy-growing areas. We have held meetings with farmers on increasing soil fertility with alternative crops," said Dr Mahant Shivayogayya senior scientist at agriculture research station, Gangavati, Koppal district.

Koppal incharge Minister Shivaraj Thangadagi, also TBICC chairman, said it was possible to provide water for second crop only if storage level of 80 tmc ft is maintained in the dam till second week of December after good inflow.

The dam's storage capacity of 133 tmc ft has dropped to 105.788 tmc feet due to silt accumulation. Storage of only 80 tmc ft is allowed till replacement of crest gates.

Govt holidays for 2026

The Cabinet has approved the list of public holidays for the 2026 calendar year. These holidays are in addition to all second and fourth Saturdays and Sundays.

Date	Day	Holiday
January 15	Thursday	Uttarayana Punyakala Makara Sankranti
January 26	Monday	Republic Day
March 19	Thursday	Ugadi
March 21	Saturday	Khutub-e-Ramzan
March 31	Tuesday	Mahaveer Jayanti
April 3	Friday	Good Friday
April 14	Tuesday	Ambedkar Jayanti
April 20	Monday	Basava Jayanti, Akshaya Tritiya
May 1	Friday	Labour Day
May 28	Thursday	Bakrid
June 26	Friday	Last day of Muharram
August 15	Saturday	Independence Day
August 26	Wednesday	Eid Milad
September 14	Monday	Varasiddi Vinayaka Vratha
October 2	Friday	Gandhi Jayanti
October 20	Tuesday	Mahanavami Ayudha Pooja
October 21	Wednesday	Vijayadashami
November 10	Tuesday	Balipadyami, Deepavali
November 27	Friday	Kanakadasa Jayanti
December 25	Friday	Christmas

Bandh for jowar purchase centre total in Lakshmeshwar

LAKSHMESHWAR (GADAG DIST), DHNS: The bandh call given by farmers' organisations demanding that a maize purchase centre be started there, evoked a good response in the town on Thursday. Shops and the APMC yard remained closed, while roads wore a deserted look in the town. Hundreds of farmers, accompanied by seers of various mutts, took out a protest march to Shigli Cross in support of their demands, where a dharna was held.

Police had made elaborate security arrangements to prevent untoward incidents.

Kannada organisations, ABVP workers and traders took part in the protest march.

University of Liverpool's Bengaluru campus to start admissions from 2026

BENGALURU, DHNS

The United Kingdom-based University of Liverpool, which is establishing its Bengaluru campus at Alembic City near Whitefield, has announced that students can apply for admissions at the varsity for the 2026-27 academic year.

In a note shared with the media, the university called on interested students to apply for courses they may like on its website: https://Bengaluru.Liverpool.ac.UK/. The varsity's Bengaluru campus will offer undergraduate courses in Computer Science, Business Management, Accounting and Finance, besides a programme in Game Design, the first-of-its-kind in India. The varsity will also offer one-year postgraduate programmes in Accounting and Finance, and Computer Science.

Hailing the collaboration between India and United Kingdom, the varsity's note outlined its vision for the Bengaluru campus. "Our research will centre on driving innovation in sustainability, digital transformation and health sciences. The Bengaluru campus will boast state-of-the-art infrastructure. Smart classrooms that enable experiential engagement with the students, case-based teaching and flipped classroom methods will be employed at the campus. Collaboration between students of different courses will be encouraged to foster cross-disciplinary learning. Specialised laboratories that have access to Bloomberg terminals will offer students a hands-on experience," read the note.

Students can expect a holistic experience at the Bengaluru campus, the university said. "From innovation hubs to community zones, every aspect of the campus has been thoughtfully planned with the aim of fostering creativity, collaboration and growth," the note added.

Chief Operating Officer for the University of Liverpool Lucy Everest shared her excitement at welcoming the first batch of students to the Bengaluru campus. "We want to provide the students an exceptional learning experience, and enhance their skills and employability. Alembic City is the perfect place to realise our vision. Students at the new campus will have the best facilities," she added.

'NEP a transformative blueprint'

In its statement, the University of Liverpool hailed the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 as a 'transformative blueprint' aimed at expanding access to higher education to 50% of the country's young population. The Bengaluru campus of the varsity reflected the varsity's commitment to NEP, said the note.

BJP, JD(S) to corner govt on drought, floods in winter session

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Opposition BJP and JD(S) have decided to corner the Congress government during the upcoming winter session in Belagavi by raising issues, such as flood and drought relief, potholes, law and order, and the state's financial situation.

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with JD(S) members, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanswamy said the two parties would jointly move an adjournment motion in the Upper House on drought and flood relief.

"We have decided to move an adjournment motion regarding drought and flood relief issues," he said.

He added that the BJP and JD(S) would take up several matters in the Council, including law and order failures, problems in the education sector, the state's financial condition, and potholes in Bengaluru. The parties will present a united front, he asserted.

Narayanaswamy said he has written to the Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti requesting that issues concerning North Karnataka be taken up during the winter session in Belagavi. JD(S) MLCs T A Sharavana and Hanamantha Nirani, and BJP MLC Keshavaprasad S were present.

'Malnad Ultra' marathon to be flagged off in Chikkamagaluru tomorrow

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

The ninth edition of 'Malnad Ultra' Marathon, the most scenic trails inside privately owned-coffee plantations in Chikkamagaluru, will be flagged off by The Printers (Mysore) Private Limited Director K N Shanth Kumar at Mallanduru on November 22.

Launched in 2016, 'Malnad Ultra' is organised in three categories - 30 km, 50 km (day and night) and 100 km.

Runners should complete these marathons within 6.5 hours, 10-11 hours and 21 hours respectively. All categories will begin and end at a single point.

'Malnad Ultra', considered by runners to be a premier Trail Ultra in India, has grown from over 200 participants in the first edition (2016) to over 1,500 participants in the previous eighth edition - making it the biggest Trail Ultra in India. The trail has been designed specifically keeping the relatively inexperienced and highly experienced runners in mind.

"We have consciously included stringent qualification criteria to improve quality as the finish percentage was under 50% during the previous marathon. At Malnad Ultra, we want runners to take their running to the next logical level of trail ultras and test their endurance to the maximum," a press release stated.

Runners pass through a scenic trail inside a privately owned coffee plantation in Chikkamagaluru during the previous 'Malnad Ultra' Marathon. PHOTO: MALNADULTRA.COM

Running mentors

In order to attract more people and reduce injuries among the runners, workshops covering a host of topics on techniques and tips for runners had been organised in Mumbai, Goa, Pune, Chennai, NCR of Delhi and Bengaluru since 2016.

Summer camps with world-renowned endurance coach Eric Orton had been organised with an objective to groom running mentors. Twenty-one amateur runners have been identified across the country. These runners, trained to become running mentors, have launched or joined running groups in their respective cities.

Gun licence can be transferred to nominee even if there is no life threat: High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has held that when an application under Rule 25 of the Arms Rules, 2016 is made during the lifetime of the licensee, so long as the licensee is aged more than 70 years or has been holding the firearm licence for more than 25 years, he can nominate any of his legal heirs for transfer of licence and there will be no requirement for the transferee to establish that there is any threat to life. Justice Suraj Govindaraj said this while allowing the petition filed by Michael Mahesh Chris Saldanha from Mangaluru.

The petitioner, a commander/pilot in profession, had applied for a grant of arms licence in terms of Rule 25 of the Arms Rules. His father Placid Saldanha owned a valid arms licence for a .32 caliber revolver. The application was rejected on the ground that there is no life threat to the petitioner. The petitioner's appeal against this order was allowed. However, on July 24, 2025, again an endorsement was issued stating that the arms licence could not be issued since petitioner has not established that he faces life threat.

Challenging this before the high court, the petitioner contended that the application was filed under Rule 25 of the Arms Rules and not on account of there being any life threat to him. It was further submitted that in terms of Rule 25, any person can transfer an arm to his legal heir on attaining 70 years or on holding firearm for 25 years, whichever is earlier, and insofar as those aspects being satisfied, there is no requirement for establishing threat to life.

The court noted that in terms of clause (a) of Rule 25 (1) of the Arms Rule, the legal heir would be entitled to transfer of the licence on the death of the licensee. Clause (b) of Rule 25 (1) provides for in any other case, when the licensee on attaining the age of 70 years or on holding the firearm for 25 years, whichever is earlier, the licensing authority may grant the licence to any legal heir nominated by him, the court said.

"In the present case, the petitioner's father is 75-year-old and he has been holding a licence from 1971 that is for a period of almost 54 years. Thus, the dual conditions under Clause (b) of Rule 25 (1) of the Arms Rule being satisfied, what is only required under the proviso is that the other conditions are satisfied and there are no adverse remarks in the police report as regards the legal heir," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, further observing that the petitioner does not hold any other licence. The court directed the authorities to issue a licence to the petitioner within a period of four weeks.

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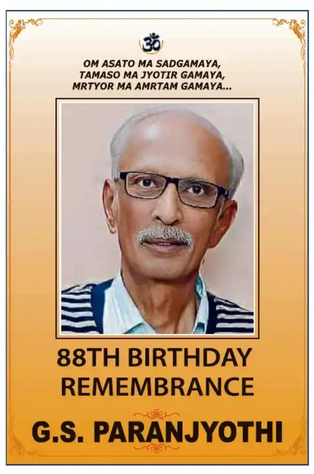

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et sub-panel: End job ourcing by Mar 2028

rs to get security odel'; bill likely

need to take serious steps to change the system. It has been recommended to completely stop the system of outsourcing by March 2028," the Cabinet sub-committee said in a document accessed by *DH*.

Outsourcing of government jobs refers to the process where private agencies companies hire workers to perform work for a government agency.

This system has been criticised for lesser salaries and lack of long-term social security benefits otherwise available to government employees.

The sub-committee headed by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil has recommended that the intentions of Article 14 and 15 of the Constitution should not be violated.

To regulate the mode of employment till the entire system is abolished, and reduce the exploitation of workers, the government has decided to set up workers' services multi-purpose cooperative societies as per the "Bidar model."

The "Bidar model" refers to the Bidar District Services of Labour Multi-purpose Cooperative Society Ltd, which provides social security to outsourced employees.

According to arguments of Labour Department officials, which *DH* has accessed through a document, the society ensures that workers get their wages and statutory facilities such as ESI and PF.

The society comes under the Bidar Deputy Commissioner, and collects a 1% service fee from workers.

The sub-committee has recommended similar societies in all districts to regulate the works till the stipulated date (March 2028).

At next Cabinet meeting

The sub-committee has recommended introducing the Karnataka Outsourced Employees (Regulation, Placement and Welfare) Bill 2025. It is likely to be discussed in the next Cabinet meeting.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad, a member of the sub-committee, is learnt to have assured that steps will be taken over the next 2-3 years to insource the services of workers in life threatening services - pourakarmikas (sanitation workers), drivers, electrical employees in the Energy Department, workers in mines and Health Department staff handling contagious diseases.

in contracts among 10 Bills awaiting Prez nod

Pending Bills	Referred for Presidential assent
The Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment (Amendment) Bill, 2024	June 2025
The Karnataka Public Service Commission (Conduct of Business and Additional Functions) Bill, 2025	July 2025
The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2015	May 2015
The Karnataka Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Lands) Tax Bill, 2024	April 2025
The Registration (Karnataka Second Amendment) Bill, 2025	September 2025
The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025	September 2025
The Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025	September 2025
The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2022	March 2022
The Notaries (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025	April 2025
The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2025	June 2025

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & LEGISLATION

or Kannada the medium of instruction for classes 1-5. This was done after the SC, in a 2014 order, rejected Karnataka's case and said that the government cannot "impose mother tongue" in primary education.

The Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions & Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to "tax" rich temples, also awaits clearance.

According to the Bill, 10% of the gross income of temples whose gross annual income exceeds Rs one crore will be put in a common pool. Also, 5% of gross income at institutions whose gross annual income exceeds Rs 10 lakh, but less than Rs one crore, will be used for the pool. The BJP had opposed the passage of the Bill.

Also pending before the President is the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill. It provides Muslims with a 4% reservation in public contracts valued up to Rs one crore.

Presidential assent is awaited for the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, which allows the government to levy taxes with retrospective effect on mineral rights and owners of mineral-bearing lands. This is estimated to fetch the government Rs 4,713 crore.

"India's federal structure works only when Constitutional posts operate within clearly defined limits. Ambiguity in timelines disrupts governance, delays public welfare measures, and erodes public trust," Babu said.

ned in tailoring, oners hope to a bright future

Inmates undergo training in tailoring at the central prison at Sogane near Shivamogga.

issued a certificate, which they can use to seek employment once released from prison.

Shivamogga Central Prison Superintendent P Ranganath is understandably proud of the inmates' accomplishments. Pointing out that the batch of inmates that has completed the tailoring module was the first in the prison, Ranganath told *DH*, "As many as 38 sewing machines were brought to the jail by the garment firm to train the inmates. We have even inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the firm, which has promised to offer jobs to the trained prisoners once they are released from jail."

Of the 60 inmates who completed the training course, five are awaiting trial, said Ranganath. "In fact, 17 inmates who took the course were recently released. Certificates confirming their successful completion of the training module will be sent to their permanent address by post," he added.

The primary objective of the programme was to equip prisoners with skills that they can put to use to sustain themselves once released. Acknowledging the difficulties that those released from prison face trying to find a job, Ranganath added, "The society does not treat them respectfully. We are confident that the skills they learn in prison will help them build a better life once released from jail."

Akkai Padmashali's book on sex workers' lives released

BENGALURU, DHNS: The book 'Yaaru Suleyaru,' authored by social rights activist Akkai Padmashali, was released here on Thursday.

The book is based on real life incidents of sex workers.

Akkai Padmashali

It is a collection of 18 stories from the lives of 18 sex workers – a few women and a few transgenders.

Akkai Padmashali said that the book aimed to bring to the forefront the discussion about sex work and the need to treat it like any other profession.

"Sex workers do their work with pride and dignity. Accepting sex work as a profession is important and there needs to be a social discussion on this," she said. The book also talks about the violence sex workers' face and how important it is to sensitise people about it and the need to condemn such violence.

The book launch was attended by many dignitaries, including Dr K Shareefa, social thinker and eminent writer, Anita Kumari, sex workers' rights activist, and Sowmya A, activist for the rights of gender and sexual minorities.

newborn death: Probe panel formed

Roopa from Kakola in Ranebennur taluk gave birth to a child in the hospital corridor. Her family said the child fell to the ground and died because of severe head injuries. They accused the doctor and nurses of negligence.

The Child Rights Protection Committee has registered a suo motu case. The probe committee comprises assistant commissioner and principal of Haveri Institute of Medical Sciences among others.

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Cong eyes Horatti's chair in Council

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Congress is planning to have its members elected as the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Legislative Council, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Thursday. Shivakumar, who is also Karnataka Congress president, held talks with party MLCs.

Senior lawmaker Basavaraj Horatti of the BJP is the current Legislative Council chairperson. In the 75-member Council, the Congress has 37, BJP has 30, JD(S) seven and one Independent

"MLCs requested me that there should be a chairperson from the party," Shivakumar said. "Also, Gayathri Shanthegowda has won her case (challenging the election of M Pranesh as deputy chairperson)," he added.

6 MLAs meet Kharge, pitch for DKS as CM

DKS, from Page 1

According to sources, Kharge told the MLAs that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will take a decision on issues on leadership as well as the Cabinet rejig. He is learnt to have told state leaders not to come to the national capital again with this plea as it would only fuel more media speculation. The MLAs tried to meet Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal but couldn't get an appointment. Though Agriculture Minister Chaluvarayaswamy and Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil were also in Delhi, they clarified that they had come on official purpose to meet Union ministers.

Insisting that the leadership issue will be decided by the party top brass, Patil said he sought an appointment with Kharge, but did not get.

"As Kharge will come to Bengaluru on Saturday, I will meet him," he said.

These developments came a day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah completed two and a half years in office.

No one has said Siddu won't be CM: DKS

Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Thursday that nobody had questioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's tenure.

"Very good," Shivakumar said, when asked about Siddaramaiah's assertion that he would remain at the helm.

"Nobody has raised questions or said that he won't be the CM. The party has given him a responsibility by making him the CM and we're working together," Shivakumar added.

Asked about some lawmakers visiting Delhi, he said he was not aware.

"I'm not keeping well. I haven't stepped out of my house. I've not even bathed," he said.

CM, DyCM at loggerheads on KMF chairman post

Both camps bat for their aides; matter reaches high command

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opening a fresh chapter in the factional feud in Karnataka Congress, the camps of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar are at loggerheads over the post of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) chairman.

The matter has reached the party high command here, with the CM batting for his close aide and Koppal MLA K Raghavendra Hitnal, while Shivakumar pushing for his brother D K Suresh to be made the chairman of one of the most prestigious milk federations in the country.

The election to the KMF chairman post was originally due in October 2024 as Siddaramaiah confidant Bheema Naik's term had ended. However, the polls have yet to be held.

Sources told *DH* that Shivakumar made multiple requests to Siddaramaiah to take a decision on holding the election but the latter cited the pending polls in one of the milk unions -- Chikkaballapur - out of the 16 milk unions in the state as the reason for not conducting the exercise.

Shivakumar camp has complained to the top brass that the CM was deliberately delaying the election to prevent Suresh becoming the chairman.

Suresh, who met Siddaramaiah earlier this week at the national capital, is learnt to have requested him to hold elections at the earliest and sought support for his candidature. However, the CM told him that the Chikkaballapur Milk Union election is scheduled on February 1, 2026, and that the KMF chairman post election will be held only after that. The CM was non committal about backing Suresh, the sources said.

The post of Karnataka Milk Federation chairman is a politically influential post as the Federation is the umbrella body of 16 milk unions in the state. It represents 24 lakh milk producers spread across Karnataka. DH FILE PHOTO

Since Siddaramaiah completed 2.5 year as the CM, Shivakumar has been pressuring the high command to ask the Kuruba leader to hand over the post to him. Siddaramaiah has been openly saying that he will continue as the CM till the full five-year term ends.

"As a compromise formula, the CM may say he would continue as the CM while he may offer Shivakumar an assurance to back Suresh in the KMF election. Apart from that Shivakumar would be given an assurance that he could continue as the lone DyCM and accommodate some of his loyalists in the Cabinet. The CM may use the KMF chairman post as a bargaining chip," a source said.

Suresh was elected unopposed as the president (chairman) of the Bangalore Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) in June 2025. Though Suresh, a former Lok Sabha member, was earlier eyeing the Congress state president post in the event of incumbent president Shivakumar vacating the post, the sources said Suresh is now keen on the KMF chairman post only.

Rajashekhar Hitnal, Koppal MP, is also lobbying for his brother Raghavendra Hitnal, the sources said.

Raghavendra, a Kuruba leader, was elected unopposed as president of the Raichur, Ballari, Koppal, Vijayanagar (RABAKOVI) Federation of Milk Producers Associations in July this year.

With the two camps complaining to the high command against each other, the top brass have yet to take a call on the issue.

For the KMF chairman post, one delegate member each from the 16 milk unions is eligible to vote. But for winning the post, the CM's support is crucial as the KMF has six government nominees as directors and they have voting power. These nominated members usually vote as per the advice of the CM, the sources said.

The KMF chairman's is a politically influential post as the Federation is the umbrella body of 16 milk unions in the state. It represents 24 lakh milk producers spread across Karnataka. The KMF has an annual turnover of Rs 14,000 crore and it aims to make it Rs 40,000 crore in the next five years.

Two elderly pedestrians killed in separate BMTC bus accidents

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two elderly pedestrians were killed in separate BMTC bus accidents on Thursday morning, prompting concerns about reckless driving in Bengaluru.

The fatalities occurred in Vijayanagar and Madiwala. Both bus drivers were arrested.

In the first incident, a 69-year-old woman died instantly after being run over by a BMTC electric bus she had just alighted from.

The victim, Susheelamma of Nagarabhavi, lived with her family.

Police said Susheelamma boarded the bus, going to Yelahanka from Kengeri, around 11.30 am to visit a bank. She alighted at Sarvajna Junction and tried to cross when the driver, Anil, failed to notice her and fatally struck her. Passersby alerted Vijayanagar traffic police, who arrested Anil for negligent driving.

In the second accident, a 65-year-old vegetable vendor was killed at Madiwala Junction when a speeding BMTC bus, driven by Srinivas, hit a luggage cart before running over the vendor.

The vendor, Venkataramappa of Rupena Agrahara, died instantly.

The crash occurred around 6.30 am as Venkataramappa was crossing the road after shopping at the vegetable market.

The bus, headed towards Silk Board, struck a goods vehicle, then knocked him down. Madiwala police have registered a case of reckless driving against Srinivas.

Recent fatal BMTC accidents

October 26: Maala (58) died after being hit by a BMTC electric bus while crossing to board a bus near Hampi Nagar stop, Vijayanagar.

October 11: Bhuvana (9) was killed by a speeding BMTC bus at Rajajinagar 1st Block, with locals blaming driver negligence.

September 2: Shankar Narayana Shastri (80) was killed near MVJ College, Mahadevapura, when a speeding EV BMTC bus knocked him down while he was crossing the road.

Mysuru Children's Lit Fest on Nov 23

MYSURU, DHNS: The Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust are all set to host the tenth edition of the Mysuru Children's Literature Festival–2025 from 3 pm to 7 pm at the Jagannatha Centre for Art and Culture in Vijayanagar on November 23. The festival will be inaugurated by erstwhile Mysore royal family member Trishikha Kumari Wadiyar. Books by four budding authors — Akriti Sharath, Aditi Aditya, Ronish Bathija and Chandni Chhabra — will be released. The event is designed for children aged 3 to 15 years, aiming to nurture meaningful growth, imagination and creativity through interactive, fun-filled learning.

REASSURING MARCH

Devotees perform a ritual during Amoghasiddha fair atop Mummettigudda in Tikota taluk in Vijayapura district on Thursday. DH PHOTO

Power tussle: CM will keep his promise, says D K Suresh

BENGALURU, DHNS

D K Suresh

On a day when the Congress government completed two-and-a-half-years in office, Bangalore Milk Union Ltd (Bamul) president D K Suresh reminded Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that he should not welch on his promise, a statement that was seen as a calculated move on the political chessboard.

Suresh's statement came at a time when his brother, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, is waiting for his turn to replace Siddaramaiah.

"With people's blessings, Congress came to power and we've completed 2.5 years. As promised, the CM has implemented the 'guarantee' schemes. He is someone who keeps his promises," Suresh, the former Bangalore Rural MP, said.

Suresh was responding to a question on whether he discussed the transfer of power during his recent meeting with Siddaramaiah.

Asked if he knew about a power-sharing deal, Suresh said: "As a Congress worker, I am witness to everything in the party." He added that the Congress high command would "definitely clarify" on this and that "they watch everything."

Suresh declined to comment on Shivakumar hinting at stepping down as the Karnataka Congress president. Asked if his brother would want to stay on as party president for a total of eight years to surpass G Parameshwara's record, Suresh said: "He's not interested in records. To remain eternal in politics, one has to keep one's word. Only then will they be remembered forever." This was also seen as a dig at Siddaramaiah, who wants to beat Devaraj Urs' record as the longest-serving CM.

Shivakumar, Suresh pointed out, had kept his word by bringing the Congress to power in Karnataka.

"Shivakumar will get rewarded for his hard work someday. Let's wait and see. He'll become the CM if destined," he added.

Cong ha manda position Siddara

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that reports of a "November revolution" were a media creation.

"My position has been strong from the beginning and will continue to remain so in the future. After completing the five-year tenure, Congress will come to power again in 2028," he told reporters at the local helipad during his visit to the city.

Siddaramaiah said that the Congress has a five-year mandate. The government is committed to fulfilling its five guarantees, he asserted.

On the ongoing debate on whether he would continue as the chief minister for a five-year tenure, he said it was an unnecessary discussion.

Siddaramaiah said, "I had informed the high command that a Cabinet reshuffle could be taken up after two and a half years. That is what has triggered discussions about a change in the chief minister." He said the party high command should decide on the Cabinet reshuffle.

"There are a total of 34 ministerial positions. In this, two are vacant. The vacant posts would be filled during the Cabinet reshuffle," he said.

When asked about the former MP D K Suresh's statements on Deputy Chief

11-day flo at Cubbo debut o

To feature over 100 varieties of flowers and plants, including Ikebana

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Horticulture Department will organise an 11-day flower show at Cubbon Park from November 27.

While smaller events have previously been held in collaboration with other departments, this is the first large-scale flower show at Cubbon Park.

The show will feature over 100 varieties of flowers and plants, including Ikebana displays. More than 100 stalls will offer nurseries, gardening accessories, homemade goods, and food. The department will spend about Rs 40 lakh on the event.

"We wanted to offer something for the park's visitors and create a lively atmosphere. Many ask if they can purchase our plants, so this exhibition is the perfect opportunity. We have activities for all ages. We will see how the event goes this year and decide if it will become an annual event," said

OSOM Summit: BIAL, EnAble India push for inclusive mobility

BENGALURU, DHNS

HARI MARAR
Managing Director & CEO, BIAL

"At BIAL, we believe airports are inclusive melting pots that truly reflect the diversity of the world they connect. We aim to build innovations that not only elevate the experience at BLR Airport, but also set new benchmarks for accessibility across airports worldwide

Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) and EnAble India co-hosted the Open Sky, Open Mind (OSOM) Summit and Awards 2025 on Tuesday at the Kempegowda International Airport, positioning the city as a leader in accessibility innovation.

The global platform was dedicated to showcasing breakthroughs in inclusive mobility.

The conference brought together airport leaders, global innovators and change-makers with disabilities to co-create real world solutions.

Hari Marar, Managing Director & CEO, BIAL, said, "At BIAL, we believe airports are inclusive melting pots that truly reflect the diversity of the world they connect. We aim to build innovations that not only elevate the experience at BLR Airport, but also set new benchmarks for accessibility across airports worldwide."

Dipesh Sutariya, Chairman of EnAble India, highlighted the economic dimension of the mission, calling the initiative a blueprint for the 'Purple Economy'. "Inclusion means business. Persons with disabilities are contributors, creators, consumers and essential participants in India's economic growth," Sutariya affirmed.

OSOM 2025 featured an exhibition of grassroots accessibility innovations, a startup matchmaking forum and a high-impact fashion showcase led by models with disabilities from the BLR Airport community. The award ceremony honoured innovators transforming accessibility across India.

Tech Summit concludes with ta by space and sports personaliti

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA
IAF pilot

"Technology needs to solve the problem of crushing humans during the take off. The heart rate increases and blood flow decreases, it can be addressed through technology.

Group Captain and ISRO astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla speaks at the valedictory ceremony of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on Thursday encouraged people to take up responsibility to work towards the dream of Vikasit Bharat by 2047 in the space sector.

Shubanshu Shukla is an Indian Air Force test pilot and ISRO astronaut, who recently was a part of India's first manned mission Gaganyaan. "We will soon have Indian citizens going to space and Indians creating capsules and launching missions, it takes the efforts of the entire nation to achieve this," said Shukla. "Over 300 startups have associated with ISRO, this should become thousands for all of us to achieve the goal," he further said.

Speaking at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, Shukla spoke about the challenges of astronauts on space missions that can be solved through the intervention of technology.

"Technology needs to solve the problem of crushing humans during the take off. The heart rate increases and blood flow decreases, it can be addressed through technology," said Shukla.

Sharing his experience at the Summit, he said the experience was fun and disorienting. "In space we become taller, lose a lot of weight especially muscle, brain fog and one forgets everything including walking," said Shukla.

Explaining the reasons to take on space missions, Shukla said, "Exploring, understanding the challenges of life in space to provide solutions to the problems on earth and an unique environment."

Sania Mirza, Indian former tennis player and Richa Ghosh, Indian cricketer spoke about the challenges in the sports world for women.

While sports is surely challenging, people's opinion on

‘Jakkur Forest’ project gains traction online

An NGO is developing a 2-acre ‘ecopocket’ and is seeking volunteers for its plantation drives

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

A project to grow a forest spanning two acres in Jakkur has gained over 1,56,500 consolidated views on Instagram. One reel calling for volunteers to participate in the plantation drive alone received 69,000 views. The initiative, called ‘Jakkur Forest’, aims to develop a pocket of forest with rich biodiversity, adjacent to an upcoming residential layout.

The project has garnered support from Kannada film actors like Diganth Manchale and Samyukta Hornad, as well as Vani Murthy, a composting enthusiast known as Worm Rani on Instagram. Even companies are supporting the initiative as part of their CSR efforts.

BlueDot, a Bengaluru-based NGO that works on lake restoration, waste management, mangrove restoration and tree plantation, is executing the project.

Its founder Harsha Tej C explains what sets this plantation initiative apart. “While Cubbon Park and Lalbagh have significant biodiversity, they are spread over multiple acres and somewhat segregated. In contrast, the ‘Jakkur Forest’ will feature biodiversity concentrated over just two acres,”

The NGO has conducted two tree plantation drives in Jakkur so far.

he says. They are planting around 120 species of trees, most of which are “local but have been forgotten over time”. These include species like Ashoka, white dammar, and mangosteen.

Harsha believes this green patch will help reduce human-animal conflicts. “Snakes will always be present, no matter where we are. What we need is not avoidance, but knowledge about snakes to coexist,” he explains. He adds that this “ecopocket” will attract a variety of birds, while also enhancing the carbon sink in the area. Harsha notes that the forest is expected to become self-sufficient within two years and will require minimal maintenance, allowing nature to take its course.

The team has organised two plantation drives so far and is planning at least 20 more. The participants range from children as young as five to seniors in their 60s. “Since conservation often falls into the ‘boring’ category, we wanted to make it enjoyable. We include live music and food stalls to keep the spirits up,” Harsha shares.

For details or to participate in the plantation drives, visit bluedot.ngo or follow @bluedot.ngo on Instagram.

FIRST SIGHTING

A male Plaintive cuckoo (Cacomantis merulinus) was spotted at Varthur Lake on Saturday. According to Bengaluru’s birding community, this is the first recorded sighting of the species in Karnataka. Known for its birdsong, the species is found year-round in southeast Asia, the northeastern states of India, Bangladesh, and parts of Nepal. It typically migrates to Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh. It is the second unusual bird recorded in Bengaluru this week, after the Himalayan rubythroat. Birders say these species have travelled farther south than usual. PHOTO/MADHU CHANDRAN

Families turn to assisted-living rentals for elders

With a rising disease burden and shrinking joint families, Bengalureans are turning to setups with professional care for their ageing parents

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

After his wife’s passing in December 2022, Felix P found himself living alone in his home, located near Banaswadi. In his 70s and living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, he had one persistent worry: what if his full-time caretaker fell sick? Moving in with his children was not feasible. His son lives in ‘cold’ New Zealand, one daughter works in a convent near Lucknow, and the other, though in Bengaluru, has a routine that does not align with his. The family decided that Felix, a retired banker, should move into an assisted-living facility in south Bengaluru, even though the rent was about Rs 1 lakh a month. He considered it a “practical choice” too.

Though he felt out of place during the first month, he is now happy and no longer feels lonely. He is surrounded by people his age and supported by younger caregivers, and keeps busy with various planned activities, health check-ups, and phone calls with family. “The facility only serves vegetarian food, so once a month, when I visit my house, I go to a restaurant nearby for chicken biryani!” he says.

Premium assisted-living facilities for seniors are gaining ground in Bengaluru. Elders are placed here not only by their NRI children but also by families living in the city. Most are in their 70s and older. Some are over 100. Singles, both widowed and unmarried, outnumber couples at these centres, and there are more women than men.

This care home in Yelahanka has elderly occupants aged 75 and above. It organises daily and special activities to promote active ageing. PIC: PRIAASHRAYA

Acceptance of the concept has grown since the pandemic, when many seniors suddenly found themselves alone. What was a hesitant decision earlier is now a thought-out plan keeping an elder’s future needs in mind, says Praveen S N, cofounder of Priaashraya, which runs two 30-room care homes in Yelahanka. One is fully booked, the other is at 60% occupancy. “We offer trial stays, and the conversion is almost 100%,” he adds. Rising life expectancy and a growing disease burden are also pushing families toward professional elder care, says Rajit Mehta, CEO and managing director of Antara Senior Care, with an 80-bed facility in Bannerghatta.

Greater affluence, he adds, is now allowing families to look beyond old-age homes, which often conjure up a less-than-ideal image. “About 3% of our occupants have moved here from old age homes,” says Srinivasan G, founder and CEO of Athulya Senior Care.

What’s inside

The facilities *Metrolife* spoke to are not meant for elders needing palliative care or those with mental conditions like dementia. Talking about their centres, Mehta says they cater to seniors who are not sick but need help with daily activities, have had a medical episode, or require post-surgery rehabilitation.

Daily care includes assistance with bathing, diaper changes, mobility, or administering drugs, as well as specialised medical support for conditions such as Parkinson’s, and for those on oxygen concentrators or feeding tubes. Facilities typically have a central kitchen, on-site doctors and nurses, and an activity calendar spanning physiotherapy, board games, film screenings, music performances, painting, newspaper reading, prayer sessions, cyber-literacy classes and expert talks. Praveen says the idea is to promote active and social ageing.

Rental models vary. A double occupancy room can start from Rs 50,000 and go up to Rs 1.5 lakh a month, while a personal suite with a shared caregiver can begin from Rs 65,000. Exclusive nursing support, in some cases, can cost extra. According to Srinivasan, hiring a caretaker, cook, and housekeeper, along with arranging emergency support for an elder living in a rented home, can be just as expensive, and still doesn’t fully meet their need for supervision, safety, and companionship.

Modern families

Srinivasan’s 150-room Kasavanahalli facility is fully occupied, and the Whitefield centre is 60% full. About 60% of their clients have NRI children, some of whom carry “guilt” about their parents living alone. “One man in San Francisco flew his mother in a chartered flight, costing Rs 40 lakh, because she wanted to spend her last days close to family and friends in Bengaluru. She passed away six months later,” he says. The rest have families in the city, but with everyone working full-time, there’s little time to monitor their ageing parents.

The erosion of the joint family structure has also contributed to this shift. Praveen says their last two admissions came from families who had just had a baby. They no longer had the space to accommodate both a caretaker for the newborn and their elderly parents at home, and the infant naturally required more of their attention. “The elders understood,” he says. Mehta points to an emerging trend: children going on vacation are leaving their ageing parents in their care for 10-15 days.

Elder care campaigner Premkumar Raja welcomes such facilities but wants government subsidies to make them more affordable. He also recommends reserving 10% of the space exclusively for dementia patients, supported by appropriate infrastructure.

POPCORN

Pav love

A German vlogger visiting Mumbai loved the vada pav he tried out at an iconic eatery. Bombay burger is what he called it. Catchy, na? He loved not only the crisp, spicy taste but also the Rs 25 price — “cheapest in the world”. But some of our countrymen are offended at the ‘burger’ label. Calm down. ‘Pav’ is borrowed, you know? The Portuguese call bread ‘pao’ and historians say Bombay (now Mumbai) picked it up from Goa and gave it a minor phonetic twist. Let’s stop this Pavlovian response to everything foreign, okay?

B’luru retailers feel pinch as pistachio rate continue to rise

Growing popularity, a poor harvest and geo-political conditions have driven the price surge

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Globally surging pistachio prices have had a direct effect on rates in Bengaluru, traders say.

In December 2023, a chocolate bar with a filling of pistachio cream and crunchy kunafa went viral after an influencer posted a video of it on social media. Reports say, the bar was created by a Dubai-based chocolatier named Sarah Hamouda of Fix Dessert Chocolatier. After the chocolate went viral, chocolatiers across the world, including India, introduced similar versions, driving up the popularity of not only pistachio chocolate, but pistachio in general.

Though it began gaining in popularity in late 2023, a smaller harvest in the US in 2024, has further driven up prices. The country is one of the biggest exporters of pista in the world. Iran, the other major exporter, also faced shipping challenges due to the conflict with Israel in June.

“With stocks selling out fast, there’s been high demand across the world in the past few months,” shares Rahul Kamat of Bolas, an online retailer of dry fruits.

Pistachio is not grown in India and is fully imported from the US and Iran. Iranian pistachio is considered superior in quality and sold under two categories.

Kamat shares that overall, there has been a 5-7% increase in prices in the last four to five months. Earlier, he was importing it at Rs 900+GST per kilo, and now it is priced at around Rs 975+GST, he says.

Idrees Mohammad Choudhury, president of the Fruits and Dry Fruits Merchant Association, Cantonment, notes that prices shot up during Deepavali and had stabilised in the past few weeks, but they went up again this week. His shop, Delicious Dry Fruits, in Russell Market, sells pistachio to ice cream shops, juice stores and bakeries in bulk. “We are now buying Iranian pista at around Rs 1,380 a kilo, compared to Rs 1,150 earlier, and American pista at around Rs 1,280 a kilo, compared to Rs 1,080 earlier,” he states. He suspects it will continue to surge as demand grows.

A number of other dry fruit stores *Metrolife* spoke to have increased prices by around Rs 100 to Rs 200, while some, like Ajfan Dates and Nuts, a chain store, have not increased their prices yet.

Pastry shops and dessert parlours too have no plans of hiking prices just yet. “We will watch for a year and raise prices only if the surge continues,” says Sara Calderoni of Milano Ice Cream, which has at least eight outlets across the city. She notes that some of the vendors they work with compromised on quality to keep up with the rates so her team was forced to change vendors. But she believes prices will stabilise soon.

The popularity of pistachio-filled chocolate has driven demand for the commodity across the world. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Cultural hub Bangalore International Centre turns 20

Built on non-partisan ideals, it now hosts over 475 events a year

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Two decades after starting as a venue for a handful of talks, the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) has grown into a major cultural hub, hosting about 500 programmes a year.

Launched on November 21, 2005, BIC moved to its current location in Domlur in 2019. Its foundation stone was originally laid at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), also in Domlur.

BIC’s first director, P R Dasgupta, says the idea emerged when “thinkers of Bengaluru” felt the city needed a space modelled on Delhi’s India International Centre. “It had to be non-partisan and free of government funding,” he recalls. At the time, Bengaluru was emerging as “India’s knowledge capital.” Leaders such as late R K Pachauri of TERI, economist Prof S L Rao, and Shanth Kumar, director of The Printers Mysore Pvt Ltd, backed the plan. With no funds or premises, Pachauri offered TERI’s Southern Regional Centre in Domlur as a space to conduct events from 2005 to 2018.

Dasgupta says the first year saw about 24 programmes. Screenings of *National Geographic* documentaries, and talks by Bharatnatyam dancer Pratibha Prahlad, economist Pieter Bottelier, and former chief justice M N Venkatachalaiah were some of the events in the initial years.

All events organised by BIC, Domlur, are free to attend.

Over the years, BIC has hosted Nobel laureates Venki Ramakrishnan, Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Michael Spence, artistes like Shubha Mudgal, Malavika Sarukkai, and T M Krishna, and writers including Amitav Ghosh.

Civic evangelist V Ravichandar, who joined BIC in 2009, played a key role in securing and shaping the Domlur campus. Between 2010 and 2019, he led fundraising and the building committee.

“The idea of owning a property began in 2008. We received a BDA civic amenity site in 2010 on a 30-year lease, after an upfront payment of Rs 3.1 crore,” he says. Architect Bijoy Ramachandran designed the building, “which went through 18 major iterations.”

Varied programming

Current director Vikram Bhat says BIC now hosts 475 to 500 programmes a year, up from about 375 two years ago. New curated initiatives include BIC Elsewhere (events across the city), B.Lore (films and stories about Bengaluru), and the BIC Podcast. Other highlights are BIC Jaanapada (promoting Karnataka’s folk traditions), Dual Margam (classical dance duets), and cultural festivals such as ‘Krishna to Kaveri’ and ‘Pravaha’. Going forward, Bhat says “the focus is on stronger curation and (forging) deeper partnerships with city institutions”. The aim is for BIC to remain the go-to space “for informed conversations, arts, and culture while staying inclusive and neutral”.

This sustainability drive pays you to discard used clothes

A Bengaluru-based startup focused on waste reduction, segregation, and recycling has launched an initiative to buy used clothes and prevent them from ending up in landfills.

When they held a scrap collection drive earlier this year along with a few District Waste Collection Centres, many expressed interest in selling their used clothes, says Nachiket Acharya, cofounder of NoKasa.

They began by collecting clothes from gated communities using NoKasa’s smart bins. Through these e-bins, one could either donate or sell their used clothes by tapping the suitable option on the screen. If one chose to sell, the clothes would be weighed, and the seller would receive Rs 10 per kilo.

Their textile recovery facility is on Old Airport Road.

As the programme gained in popularity, they had to deal with stained and torn clothes, and home curtains and pillow covers that were unusable or unsellable. To address this issue, they are launching a doorstep collection drive starting on November 23. Representatives from NoKasa will visit homes to inspect the clothes before accepting them. There will be a Rs 50 handling charge, and the clothes will be purchased at Rs 20 per kilo.

For more information, call 63630 05509 or visit nokasa.co.

EVENTS

Kannada play
Jangama Collective is marking its sixth anniversary with a play, ‘Bob Marley from Kodihalli’, on November 22, at 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm, at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets online.

Book talk
Social anthropologist Carol Upadhya’s book ‘Chronicles of a Global City’ will be discussed on November 23, 11 am, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. It outlines the impact of urbanisation on the city’s people and livelihoods. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Script release
The English and Hindi translations of playwright Nataraj Thalaghattapura’s Kannada script ‘Banna Mecchidavaru’ will be released on November 22, 5 pm, at Bharath Education Society, Jayanagar. The translations are respectively titled ‘Admirers of Colour’, and ‘Rangon Ke Upasak’. Three other books and a collection of stories will also be released. Entry free.

Comedy drama
Prakasam will stage the Kannada comedy drama ‘Hosabelaku’ on November 21, 7.30 pm, at Yuvapatha Auditorium, Jayanagar. It is a contemporary adaptation of feminist writer Vani’s 1969 novel of the same name. It was also adapted into a 1982 film starring Dr Rajkumar. Tickets online.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A costly reversal on green governance

The Supreme Court's recall of its judgement on retrospective environmental clearances is a setback to environmentally informed governance. On May 16, the Court held that ex post facto clearances by the government to building projects were a "gross illegality". A 2:1 majority ruling by Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandran has now reversed the earlier ruling – the Vanashakti judgement – and held that if allowed to operate, the verdict would have a "devastating effect" and "thousands of crores of rupees would go to waste". Dissenting Justice Ujjal Bhuyan endorsed the earlier ruling and described the review judgement an "innocent expression of opinion" which overlooked the "very fundamentals of environmental jurisprudence". The view held by Justice Bhuyan, who was part of the original verdict, presents a strong counterpoint to the majority ruling.

It has been claimed that the recall is on technical grounds and merely addresses errors in the previous judgement. This is no validation for a post facto clearance regime, and the review judgement, it is argued, only lifts the stay on government notifications and procedures, thus avoiding wastage of investment of around Rs 20,000 crore. There are 24 central projects worth Rs 8,293 crore and 29 state projects worth Rs 11,168 crore pending because of the earlier ruling. But when violations are validated in the form of post facto to regularisation, the integrity of environmental governance comes under question. There are many precedents of courts, including the Supreme Court, ordering demolition of structures constructed in violation of environmental and civic regulations. An illegality should be treated as an illegality.

Retrospective project clearances dilute environmental jurisprudence and may incentivise violations

Justice Bhuyan has adhered to the Court's consistent position on environmental issues. In 2017, the Court had ruled that "the grant of an environmental clearance cannot be taken as a mechanical exercise" and "ex post-facto environmental clearance... could lead to irreparable degradation of the environment". Justice Bhuyan's observation that "there is no concept of ex post facto clearance in environmental law" is in line with this position. While the majority judgement talks of "public interest", it is difficult to see how diluting environmental regulations serves public interest. There is a cost in implementing the Vanashakti ruling, but it is not greater than the cost of regularising violations. This reversal will remove deterrence from the prior-approval regime and may incentivise violations. Offenders are ready to pay up for their violations because the commercial gains are greater. The ruling has sent out a wrong message and has missed an opportunity to emphasise that breaching environmental regulations may have an irreversible fallout.

Winter session must go beyond the ritual

The upcoming winter session of the Karnataka legislature in Belagavi, from December 8 to 19, will once again be held under a shadow of unrealised promise. The Suvarna Vidhana Soudha has rarely given voice to the concerns, aspirations, and long-neglected needs of the people of North Karnataka. Inaugurated in 2012 with the promise of decentralisation and regional balance, it was meant to be more than a grand monument to Karnataka's unity or a symbol in the border dispute with Maharashtra. For a neglected region, it embodied the hope that, at least for a few weeks each year, the state's leadership would listen to and act on its long-ignored grievances. More than a decade later, that promise remains largely unrealised. Instead of emerging as a second centre of governance, the building has acquired the reputation of a vast complex that stirs to life for barely 10-12 days before falling silent again. Key government departments that were supposed to shift there permanently have remained in Bengaluru, the presence of ministers is thin, and many officers treat the Belagavi sitting as an obligatory exercise rather than a serious legislative assignment.

As a result, the most pressing issues of North Karnataka rarely receive the attention they deserve. The region continues to lag in per capita income, industrial investment, irrigation, healthcare, and education. Large parts are still trapped in multidimensional poverty. Farmers in the Krishna and Mahadayi basins face chronic irrigation deficits, rural drinking water shortages persist, and infrastructure gaps in roads, rail connectivity, logistics, and administrative presence remain stark. It is in this context that the stand taken by JD(S) MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur has resonated across the region. His decision to forgo allowances, official accommodation, and food during the Belagavi session calls out a culture of complacency. It underscores how the annual ritual has degenerated into an expensive 'two-week excursion', consuming Rs 25-30 crore without delivering major progress.

North Karnataka's chronic developmental issues call for deep, structured discussions in the legislature

For the winter session to regain its legitimacy, the presiding officers should dedicate specific days exclusively to discussions on the region. A structured agenda – focusing on irrigation, industries, farmer distress, drinking water challenges, regional infrastructure, and overall development – would ensure that the session finally fulfils its purpose. Belagavi was chosen to house the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha to correct long-standing imbalances. Without a committed legislative agenda, that promise risks becoming an empty gesture. This December presents another opportunity for the state to rectify this historic blunder by finally giving North Karnataka the attention it has long demanded.

A CLOSING LOOP

Generative AI at three: Promise, profit, or bubble?

The world is betting on the buzz, but data exhaustion and soaring infrastructure costs raise concerns

KANAD BASU AND GOURAB MUKHERJEE

We are approaching the third anniversary of ChatGPT's release. When OpenAI launched it, the world was stunned. For the first time, the wider public directly experienced the power of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI): large language models (LLMs) could generate coherent, context-aware paragraphs from just a few words of instruction. Three years later, we stand at a crossroads, not only for the global economy but for human civilisation itself. It is now evident that Gen AI is a transformative technology that is reshaping nearly every aspect of our lives, from education to business and beyond.

Gen AI differs from every previous wave of disruptive innovation in several fundamental ways. Its adoption has been astonishingly rapid and global, both in the number of users and in its spread across borders. Nearly 70% of new API users of OpenAI's platforms now come from outside the United States. In the last five decades of American technological dominance, no other innovation has seen such swift and widespread international uptake. Moreover, with reinforcement learning and continuous model upgrades, LLMs are becoming increasingly adaptive, forming a self-improving loop that enhances their performance over time. While the industrial revolution automated muscle power, Gen AI automates cognition and decision-making. That marks a profound shift, as these were tasks once considered uniquely human.

As Prof Diganta Mukherjee of ISI Kolkata observes, "AI is the next big thing after computerisation. The way we replaced repetitive processes at the lower end of the value chain in the early 1990s is now being replicated at a higher level, with AI taking over more complex yet still repetitive tasks such as decision-making."

While no other technology has achieved such widespread adoption, the challenge with AI today lies in the scale of investment it has attracted. The top five AI-focused companies – Apple, Nvidia, Microsoft, Alphabet, and Amazon – now account for nearly one-third of the S&P 500 index. Overall, AI-focused companies have driven roughly 80% of the S&P 500's gains in 2025. Yet, the incremental improvements in successive AI models, particularly LLMs, are becoming less visible to the public. The current challenges facing the AI ecosystem can be broadly grouped into three categories.

One: LLMs have already trained on nearly all publicly available human content, leaving little new data to improve them. Adding AI-generated material offers minimal gains. This saturation exposes ethical issues, especially

around fair compensation for creators. In 2023, artists Sarah Andersen, Kelly McKernan, and Karla Ortiz sued AI image companies, claiming their works were used in training without consent or payment. They argue this violates copyright law through unauthorised copying and imitation of their styles, creating "21st-century collage tools". AI firms counter that using public images qualifies as fair use for transformative purposes. The case, still unresolved, will likely set a precedent for how copyright law, written long before AI, applies to systems that learn from creative works at scale. Its outcome could redefine how AI companies source data and how artists protect their work.

Two: ways to effectively monetise Generative AI in real businesses remain uncertain. Chatbots built on LLMs have delivered quick cost savings by automating clerical tasks, and AI-assisted programming has boosted coding productivity. Gen AI-based video creation tools are also being adopted. Yet the initial gains from these applications appear to be plateauing. Despite a flood of startups built around Gen AI, an *MIT Technology Review* report notes that about 95% of corporate Gen AI pilot projects have failed to deliver meaningful results.

Three: Generative AI companies face steep operating expenses. These models are not only costly to train but also expensive to run, given the immense number of daily API calls. Their infrastructure consumes vast amounts of electricity, particularly for image processing, and water and power to cool massive data centres. By 2030, data centres are projected to use nearly 10% of US electricity. Another concern is rapid hardware depreciation. The AI arms race has driven massive investments in advanced chips to support model scaling, but with chip technology evolving so quickly, these assets risk becoming obsolete before recouping their costs, raising the threat of a sharp capital crash.

When optimism gets speculative

The real concern now is the return on investment from the massive wave of spending on Generative AI. Many fear that prices have been inflated by hype and unrealistic promises. If the technology fails to deliver the transformation it claims to enable, the fallout could be severe – economically, socially, and politically. Several leading researchers have warned against the over-investment in LLMs at the expense of other AI paradigms. Unlike physics-based systems, LLMs learn purely from human language and text. They lack grounding in the physical world, making true artificial general intelligence, on which much of the current optimism rests, an elusive goal.

Economists, too, are uneasy. The AI sector now exhibits the hallmarks of a speculative bubble. Nvidia sells chips to OpenAI; Microsoft owns a major stake in OpenAI; Nvidia, in turn, invests back, forming a closed financial loop reminiscent of past bubbles. In *Bubbles and Crashes*, Brent Goldfarb and David A Kirsch identify four warning signs: uncertainty, "pure play" companies, novice investors, and narrative fever. All are visible today. The Buffett Index has climbed past 200%, higher than before the dot-com crash.

Sam Altman, OpenAI's CEO, once compared the AI revolution to the Manhattan Project that led to the atom bomb and changed the course of history. Given the scale of our collective bet on AI, its outcome may shape not just markets or elections but the future trajectory of human civilisation itself.

(The writers are professors at the Department of Data Sciences and Operations, Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The day the tree saved me

The magnificent tree left its mark in life -- and long after it fell

USHA MUKUNDA

It was a truly magnificent tree. But most of us hardly paid any attention to it as we went about our daily chores and even walked under it each morning and evening. Now as I think more about it, I wonder when it was planted and imagine that there must then have been free space and air for the roots to breathe. Suddenly I realise that across from the tree was my grandparents' home, where, as children, we spent many happy summer holidays climbing trees, plucking and eating fruits, and playing games of running and catching with innumerable cousins. The tree must have been growing to maturity then. In the 70 odd years that came after, roads were widened, more houses were built and pavements sealed the roots of this tree. But the tree soldiered on, giving shade and comfort to passers-by.

Until one day, it began to die. No one noticed; no one heard the death rattle of its roots. The fruit cart lady nearby thought rats were gnawing at something and went about her business. The day wound on, and as evening approached, the tree was close to its end. This is when two young friends and I walked towards the tree on our way elsewhere. As we stepped under it, I heard a loud cracking sound. I looked up and saw the huge trunk slowly descending right at me. From far away I could hear my friends' voices call out to me with urgency and distress, but I was frozen in time and place. With the presence of mind that only younger persons could have, they yanked me back, but my legs were still chained to the ground. I fell back and saw and heard the great sigh and loud thud of the tree as it fell inches from where I was still lying. Everything then began to happen in fast forward. People rushed to help, enquire, commiserate and congratulate me on my narrow escape. But the tree lay unmoving, unmourned. Perhaps it had tried its best to save me too.

Other systems fell into place. Traffic was diverted, forest officials came out of nowhere and began to chop up the tree, people moved on with their routines, and the tree's life was forgotten. The next morning I walked up to look at the spot. Hardly any traces remained. Only a yawning hole where the roots had been and my memory of an experience.

I remembered a poem I had read long ago by Gieve Patel called *It Takes Much Time to Kill a Tree*. It made more sense to me now.

Many friends responded to the picture I sent them of the fallen tree. Their words still echo in my head.

"What a magnificent tree!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Efficient infrastructure an economic imperative

I refer to 'Engineer's body endorses tunnel road project' (Nov 20). Bengaluru's traffic congestion is a chronic urban challenge that demands bold and forward-thinking solutions. The Karnataka government has proposed a tunnel corridor project to ease traffic in high-density zones, complementing ongoing efforts such as multi-lane ring roads, Metro expansion, circular railway, and improved bus networks. The Institution of Engineers (India) – Karnataka State Centre has come out in support of the project. According to the engineering experts, it is a "technically sound solution" to the city's perennial traffic problems. Efficient infrastructure is an economic imperative. Smooth traffic flow enhances productivity, reduces fuel consumption, and improves quality of life. Our elected representatives should lobby for funding and fast-track approvals, ensuring Bengaluru receives infrastructure similar to other major metropolitan cities to sustain its growth and global competitiveness.
H N Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

Biased opinion

Apropos 'Engineer's body endorses tunnel project' (Nov 20), it is not surprising that the IEI secretary quoted in the report has come out in support of the state government's tunnel project. He is a Congressman and happens to be their spokesperson on electronic media. *DH* would have done well to mention this in the interest of objectivity and explain why independent organisations, including IISc, haven't endorsed the project.
Tejas Shekhar, Bengaluru

Extraditing Hasina

I refer to 'Hasina sentence will test India's diplomacy' (Nov 19). Should India agree at all to hand Sheikh Hasina back to Bangladesh, it should do so only on condition that she will not face the death penalty. After all, India secured gangster Abu Salem's extradition from Portugal nearly 25 years ago when the then Home Minister L K Advani gave an undertaking to Lisbon that Salem would not be given the death penalty nor more than the maximum period of incarceration allowed in Portugal, i.e. 25 years.
Jayaram, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The infiltrators are the Congress party's vote bank. The people of Bihar have taken a decision in the country's interest and foiled the Congress's conspiracy on the SIR. The Congress is conspiring to stage protests and to mislead the public.

Syed Zafar Islam, BJP leader

In politics, the truth is often less important than what politicians can make people believe.

Walter Cronkite

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Hasina sentence: Democracy on trial

The return of vendetta politics intensifies polarisation in Bangladesh and risks ramifications in the neighbourhood

ANAND KUMAR

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)'s death sentence against former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina marks a deeply unsettling moment in the country's political trajectory. A former head of government has been convicted of crimes against humanity. This verdict comes at a time of extraordinary polarisation, well over a year after the student-led uprising that toppled Hasina's fifteen-year rule, forced her into exile, and installed an unelected interim administration led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. Instead of stabilising the country, the decision risks intensifying political turbulence, emboldening extremist forces, and plunging Bangladesh further into uncertainty.

To many observers, the case that has been framed as a pursuit of justice appears inseparable from long-standing political vendettas. The tribunal – revived by Hasina in 2010 primarily to prosecute Jamaat-e-Islami leaders for atrocities committed during the 1971 Liberation War – is being used to try Hasina herself. This reversal has raised fundamental questions about motive and credibility. For over a decade, Jamaat's leadership was politically marginalised and subjected to sustained legal pressure under successive Awami League governments. Yet in the political reconfigurations that followed Hasina's fall, Jamaat has resurfaced and is widely perceived to have found common ground with the Yunus administration. That the same tribunal which once sentenced Jamaat leaders is now delivering a death sentence to the very leader who revived it reinforces the perception of political retribution.

Any assessment of the verdict must also account for the fraught relationship between Yunus and Hasina. Their rivalry, rooted in clashing worldviews, personal mistrust, and past confrontations, has shaped Bangladesh's political discourse for nearly two decades. When Yunus signalled political ambitions in 2007, Hasina interpreted it as a direct challenge. Subsequent government actions targeting Yunus and microfinance bodies deepened the animosity. After Hasina fled to India in August 2024, Yunus returned to Dhaka and assumed leadership of the interim government. The new administration swiftly banned the Awami League, arrested its senior leaders, and revived multiple cases against Hasina. Within this context, the tribunal proceedings cannot be viewed merely as judicial acts; they are deeply enmeshed in the political calculations of an interim regime led by Hasina's principal adversary.

The conduct of the trial has raised further concerns. Hasina and her former home minister were tried in absentia, a procedure permissible in Bangladeshi law but contentious in politically charged cases. Much of the prosecution's case relies on testimony from former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned state witness after he himself faced charges. Debate persists over whether his testimony was voluntary or coerced. Rights groups have argued that the evidentiary threshold required for a sentence of this severity has not been met.

Predictably, the verdict has not calmed tensions. The Awami League's nationwide shutdown has impacted urban centres, and clashes have been reported. Groups aligned with the BNP and various Islamist organisations have mobilised in support of the verdict, while others have threatened violence should Hasina attempt to return. Attacks on symbols associated with the Awami League underscore the escalating volatility. Minority communities – particularly Hindus – have faced increased assaults since the fall of the Awami League, reflecting a dangerous rise in majoritarian mobilisation. Despite deployments of the armed forces, the unrest shows no sign of abating.

Deepening chaos

The political environment has become more precarious because the interim government has banned the Awami League from political activity, effectively disenfranchising millions. Any election held without one of South Asia's largest political parties risks lacking legitimacy from the outset. The Yunus administration's plan to hold a general election and a referendum on sweeping constitutional reforms in February 2026 has deepened suspicion that the process is being engineered to prolong the interim regime's tenure under the guise of reform.

The regional implications are equally significant. With India sheltering Hasina, there is an added diplomatic undercurrent. The interim government's shift in foreign policy marks a sharp departure from Hasina's decade-long emphasis on maintaining stable relations with India. Accelerated engagement with China – including interest in acquiring advanced military platforms – alongside renewed warmth with Pakistan has unsettled New Delhi.

Seen against this backdrop, the sentence appears less a quest for justice than a catalyst for further instability. It threatens to deepen divisions and open space for extremist forces. The verdict has intensified an already volatile environment, raising questions about the future of Bangladesh's democracy and the direction in which the interim administration intends to steer the country. The judgement has been delivered, but the reckoning for Bangladesh's political future has only begun.

(The writer is an associate fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses)

Sikkim's fragile mountains are cracking under development pressure

SUDHA MADHAVAN

Ecologically vulnerable areas are sensitive because of extreme climates, steep topography, low carrying capacity, and unique biodiversity. In North Sikkim and its fragile ecology, most of these factors play a significant role.

The region strikes a visitor with its abundant natural beauty and rich resources—coupled also with evidence of their stark imbalance.

Over the past 10 years (up to January 2025), 440 earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 or higher occurred within 300 km of Sikkim, with a yearly average of about 44. Studies indicate a significant number of landslides, identifying 265 mapped landslides between 1989 and 2022, showing increased vulnerability.

This tiny Himalayan state, which through a referendum in 1975 voted to become the 22nd state of India, has many little gems tucked away, each sparkling in its own unique way. But how enduring that sparkle is—and how ecologically safe these places are—is a point of serious concern.

With every monsoonal deluge, the northern part of Sikkim gets quagmired. The North Sikkim region, by its very geological nature, is in a vulnerable position, close at the foothills of the mighty Himalayan ranges that are still young and prone to tectonic plate movements.

The variable climate, differences in altitude, fickle weather and heavy rainfall, combined with the steep terrain, make the region prone to landslides and erosion. To add to all these are man-made indiscriminate acts of deforestation as a course for developmental projects such as building of dams, etc.

The construction of hydroelectric projects in this disaster-prone area has increased human settlement, adding to the greater threat in numbers to the local population and infrastructure, vulnerable to the flood risk.

The dam of the 1200 MW Teesta III project in Chungthang on the feisty river Teesta was washed away on the intervening night of October 3 and 4, 2023, on account of a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) from the South Lhonak lake, triggered by torrential rains. The lake had been a 'ticking bomb' for a potential GLOF for over a decade.

The cascading effect continued downstream, affecting four other dams: Teesta V, Teesta VI, Teesta Low Dam III, and Teesta Low Dam VI.

This catastrophe has had a lasting impact, altering the topography of these areas of north Sikkim, making them even more vulnerable to any such future mishap. There is enough evidence of the damage caused along the route to Mangan. Massive boulders and raw, gaping mountainsides sliced off like big chunks of cake, vanished roads and torn bridges.

The sight is deeply disturbing and frightening.

This disastrous incident has attracted the attention and analyses of activists, scholars and scientists and the outrage of local communities. Two important facts have come to the fore: first, the suitability of the region for such ambitious power projects and second, whether policies are tailored to suit the steep mountainous terrain.

According to the Environmental Policy Goddard Chair Group, the remedial measures should include:

- Providing public access to data, information, and future disaster predictions
- Accounting for deep uncertainties
- Including local interests in planning processes and disaster response
- Formally funding contingency measures
- Sharing lessons learned both locally and from other locations

It is essential for power, water and infrastructure planners—and government agencies—to understand that the capacity of the small state of Sikkim to generate power is very limited. Consuming only around 400 MW of energy, it was generating 2,300 MW.

On our way to Dzongu from Lachung, at Chungthang, we witnessed the devastation and the abandoned hydroelectric power project. The magnitude of the damage gives a sobering glimpse into the might of natural forces when thwarted.

The Teesta, which originates from the Teesta Khangtse glacier, and Rangit, its tributary, nourish the state. A forceful river, if angered, can sweep away mountainsides, roads, bridges and homes.

The Lepcha tribe's stand

An equally strong and emotional reason is that of the Lepcha tribe, to whom the Dzongu district belongs, according to the 1956 notification. They are nature worshippers, and their connection with their land, flora and fauna and water bodies is deep and reverential.

Gyatso Tongden Lepcha, secretary of the Affected Citizens of Teesta, says, "We have observed several landslides, flash floods and earthquakes after the construction of dams on the Teesta River in Dikchu and Chungthang; we believe dams are not the solution to sustainable development."

To keep the developmental projects going while handling the negative anthropogenic impact of them is a difficult issue to solve. A complete and deeply studied overhaul of the outlook on development may help to an extent.

These words of Chief Seattle come to my mind: 'We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.'

(The author is a freelance travel writer, artist and children's author based in Bengaluru)

While the US auto industry touts battery recycling as an environmental success story, Nigeria's booming lead-recycling hubs reveal a grim, poisonous underbelly

PETER S GOODMAN, WILL FITZGIBBON AND SAMUEL GRANADOS

Workers hack open vehicle batteries to drain the acid in preparation for recycling the lead, in Lagos, Nigeria. A *New York Times* investigation, in collaboration with *The Examination*, found that Nigerian factories supplying recycled lead to the American auto industry have been poisoning people who live nearby. NYT

Recycling lead for US car batteries is poisoning people

Poisonous dust falls from the sky over the town of Ogijo, Nigeria. It coats kitchen floors, vegetable gardens, churchyards and schoolyards. The toxic soot billows from crude factories that recycle lead for American companies. With every breath, people inhale invisible lead particles and absorb them into their bloodstream. The metal seeps into their brains, wreaking havoc on their nervous systems. It damages livers and kidneys. Toddlers ingest the dust by crawling across floors, playgrounds and backyards, then putting their hands in their mouths.

Lead is an essential element in car batteries. But mining and processing it is expensive. So companies have turned to recycling as a cheaper, seemingly sustainable source of this hazardous metal.

As the United States tightened regulations on lead processing to protect Americans over the past three decades, finding domestic lead became a challenge. So the auto industry looked overseas to supplement its supply.

Seventy people living near and working in factories around Ogijo volunteered to have their blood tested by *The New York Times* and *The Examination*, a nonprofit newsroom that investigates global health. Seven out of 10 had harmful levels of lead. Every worker had been poisoned. More than half the children tested in Ogijo had levels that could cause lifelong brain damage.

Dust and soil samples showed lead levels up to 186 times as high as what is generally recognised as hazardous. More than 20,000 people live within a mile of Ogijo's factories. Experts say the test results indicate many of them are probably being poisoned.

Lead poisoning worldwide is estimated to cause far more deaths each year than malaria and HIV/AIDS combined. It causes seizures, strokes, blindness and lifelong intellectual disabilities. The World Health Organisation makes clear that no level of lead in the body is safe.

Factories in and around Ogijo recycle more lead than anywhere else in Africa. Manufacturers that use Nigerian lead make batteries for major carmakers and retailers such as Amazon, Lowe's and Walmart.

The auto industry touts battery recycling as an environmental success story. Lead from old batteries, when recycled cleanly and safely, can be melted down and reused again and again with minimal pollution. But companies have rejected proposals to use only lead that is certified as safely produced.

Battery makers rely on the assurances of trading companies that lead is recycled cleanly. These intermediaries rely on perfunctory audits that make recommendations, not demands. The industry, in effect, built a global supply system in which everyone involved can say someone else is responsible for oversight.

Nigeria is among the fastest-growing sources of recycled lead for American companies. Ogijo and the communities nearby make up the heart of the industry, home to at least seven lead recyclers. Two factories are near boarding schools. Another faces a seminary. Others are surrounded by homes, hotels and restaurants.

Among the largest and dirtiest lead recyclers in Ogijo is True Metals. It has supplied lead to factories that make batteries for Ford, General Motors, Tesla and other automakers, records show. True Metals did not respond to questions about its practices or the lead test results.

Most major car companies did not address the *Times* and *Examination* findings about tainted lead from Nigeria. Volkswagen and BMW said they would look into it. Subaru said it did not use recycled lead from anywhere in Africa. Because the supply chain is opaque and diffuse, car companies and battery makers are unlikely to know the precise origins of the lead they use. They rely on international trading companies to supply it.

One such company, Trafigura, has sent recycled lead to US companies from True Metals and six other Nigerian smelters in the past four years, records show. Last year, Trafigura reported $243 billion in revenue by trading oil, gas and metals worldwide. Until recently, Trafigura's Nigerian suppliers included one factory, Green Recycling Industries, that tried to live up to its name.

International experts from nonprofit research groups and the metals industry visited Green Recycling last year as part of an effort to strengthen Nigeria's weak inspection of battery recyclers. The country has laws to protect the environment but struggles to enforce them.

The experts marvelled at Green Recycling's antipollution technology and the machinery that safely broke apart batteries.

"The equipment and recycling processes are significantly different and of a remarkably higher standard than observed in any other plant in Nigeria," the experts wrote.

But operating cleanly put Green Recycling at a disadvantage. It had to make up for its high machinery costs by offering less money for dead batteries. Outbid by competitors with crude operations, Green Recycling had nothing to recycle. Ali Fawaz, the company's general manager, said his competitors were essentially making money by harming locals. "If killing people is OK, why would I not kill more and more?" he said. The company shut down this year.

The same experts who praised the conditions at Green Recycling also visited its competitors. What they found most likely amounted to "severe human rights abuses," they wrote. They concluded that seven plants in and around Ogijo were "in clear violation of international common practice."

True Metals stood out as especially hazardous. Workers there mishandled materials and unnecessarily subjected the surrounding area to toxic smoke, inspectors wrote. A thick layer of lead sludge and dust covered the floor. True Metals' managers told inspectors they conducted blood tests on their workers. Yet the company's records showed only weight, pulse and blood pressure, according to the report.

Trafigura hires contractors to audit suppliers to ensure they meet government and industry standards. But people involved in lead recycling said those audits had little effect.

One True Metals worker, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to protect his job, said visits were announced in advance and that most workers were sent home. Those remaining were given new overalls and goggles and coached on how to respond to questions, he said.

After such audits, consultants issue recommendations that include simple fixes, such as handing out safety gear, and expensive ones, like installing new equipment. The smelters typically do what's affordable and skip the rest, according to interviews with a Lagos-based consultant who conducts audits, the owner of a Nigerian smelter and a former Trafigura trader who has visited plants throughout Africa. All spoke on the condition of anonymity because they remain in the metals industry and feared reprisals.

In a written statement, a Trafigura spokesperson, Neil Hume, said the company followed all regulations and worked with the Nigerian government and outside experts to assess its lead suppliers. It is standard practice to notify plants before visits, he said. He said Trafigura dropped suppliers that "consistently" failed to improve. The company declined to discuss what it knew about the conditions at suppliers such as True Metals.

A handful of companies dominate auto battery manufacturing in the United States. The largest manufacturer, Clarios, said it does not buy lead from West Africa. The second-largest, East Penn Manufacturing, has.

East Penn, a family-owned company, operates the largest battery plant in the world, in tiny Lyon Station, Pennsylvania. On the company's website, it says, "Green is good."

In September, Nigerian officials closed five smelters, including True Metals citing tests that revealed the presence of lead in residents, resulting in illnesses and deaths. But days later, the factories were running again.

The New York Times

Hold lawmakers to the law

K V CHANDRAMOULI

Despite the requirement under Section 22(1) of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, 1984, that legislators and public servants submit annual statements of assets and liabilities—including those of their family members—by June 30, compliance remains notably low. Around 200 legislators, including six ministers, 66 MLAs, and 28 MLCs, failed to file their statements for 2024–25. This obligation is both a legal and moral measure against corruption and excessive asset accumulation. Such widespread non-compliance raises concerns about accountability, transparency, and the rule of law, indicating potential weaknesses in institutional integrity and ethical governance.

Sections 22(2) and 22(3) empower the Lokayukta to seek explanations from defaulters and report them to the competent authorities—the Governor for ministers, the Speaker or Chairman for legislators, and the disciplinary authority for other public servants. Section 12(3) permits the Lokayukta to recommend disciplinary action for deliberate default or misconduct. However, the Lokayukta lacks the powers to impose fines, suspend, or disqualify offenders, leaving enforcement to political and administrative will. This makes the institution more a moral authority than an effective statutory guardian, especially when compared with the strict framework governing government servants.

Government servants handle public resources and exercise administrative authority; consequently, they are held to strict standards of financial probity. The annual declaration of assets and liabilities is a key mechanism for ensuring accountability. Honouring this obligation reinforces credibility in governance, while ignoring it corrodes the ethical foundations of administration.

Rule 24 of the Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2021, framed under Article 309 of the Constitution, requires public servants to file detailed declarations of movable and immovable properties, including family assets, within three months of joining service and annually thereafter by December 31. Non-compliance constitutes "conduct unbecoming of a government servant" under Rule 3(1)(iii) and attracts disciplinary action under Rule 11 of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1957.

Depending on the severity, penalties may include censure, withholding of increments or promotions, recovery for losses, reduction in rank, compulsory retirement, or dismissal. As per DPAR circulars, late or non-submission may also result in denial of vigilance clearance, blocked promotions or transfers, and adverse service record entries, reinforcing a strong culture of accountability. Further, Rule 20 of the Conduct Rules, 2021, requires government servants to obtain prior permission and report movable assets exceeding Rs 50,000.

In contrast, the Lokayukta Act requires only annual disclosure, not prior approval. Ministers and legislators therefore undergo significantly lighter scrutiny. Unlike government servants governed by a binding statutory conduct framework, Karnataka's legislators are regulated only by the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Legislature, which apply largely within the House, and the Code of Conduct for Ministers, which is advisory and unenforceable.

The contrast between legislators and government servants highlights a double standard. Legislators who demand integrity and transparency from public servants are often reluctant to follow the same principles. Political self-interest deters them from introducing strict penalties applicable to themselves. Shielded by legislative privilege and weak enforcement mechanisms, many treat asset declarations as symbolic rather than mandatory. Morally, this is unjustifiable. Elected representatives are entrusted with public power and resources, and failing to set the benchmark for honesty erodes public faith and weakens democratic governance.

This unequal treatment in enforcing accountability among legislators, public servants, and government servants undermines the principle of equal accountability in public office. Transparency, a cornerstone of democratic governance, loses meaning when breaches carry no consequences. Legislators who demand honesty from citizens must be held to equal or higher standards. To restore trust in governance:

- Amend Section 22(1) of the Lokayukta Act to incorporate explicit penalties for non-submission.
- Empower the Lokayukta to directly enforce compliance, reducing dependence on political authorities.
- Make all asset declarations publicly accessible on the Lokayukta's website for citizen and media scrutiny.
- Set firm timelines with automatic consequences for defaulters.

Aligning the Lokayukta's powers with the Conduct Rules, 2021, will strengthen accountability and transparency across Karnataka's public offices.

(The writer is a retired deputy director of boilers)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

Sati in reverse

Jabalpur, Nov 20
It is a case of sati in reverse in this International Women's Year. It was the widower who immolated himself on his wife's burning pyre. It happened last Tuesday at Bandhi village, near Slemanabad, about 65 kms from here, Additional Superintendent of Police F. S. Barbare told the press here today. After the 60-year-old wife's pyre was lit, the mourners went to a nearby river for the ritual bath leaving the bereaved 63- year-old husband, Mr. Lalu Sahu, alone. Overcome by grief, Mr. Sahu threw himself on the pyre and met with a fiery end.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

45 million blind people in the world now

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20
There are 45 million blind people all over the world at present and the figure is expected to double in the next 25 years if proper action is not initiated to solve the problem. This was stated by the President of the International Association of Lions Clubs, Dr Jean Behar, while talking to newsmen here last night. Dr Behar said the world community should look at the problem more seriously as it had started creating social disorder in many Third World countries.

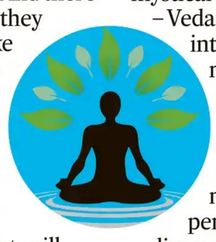
OASIS | RADHIKA D SHYAM

Intent - the sacred compass of our soul

Two young monks in a monastery were assigned the duty of fetching water from a distant spring. One of them felt it was a demeaning task and grumbled. The second monk was grateful for a chance to serve his master and fellow monks and cheerfully went about the job, admiring the nature around him and walking with a spring in his steps.

The master asked them to look into their buckets. The first monk's bucket had muddy water; the second one's had clear, clean water, though they had filled it from the same spring at the same time. The master pointed out, "When your intention is pure, even the simplest task can lead to good things."

There are philanthropists who donate for name and fame. And there are those who give because they know that their act can make a big impact on somebody's life. The difference in their efforts is their intention. The same two acts therefore do not bring the same result – one defies the main purpose of the act, and the other, done with a good heart, will have the desired ripple effect of good *karma*.



For lack of a strong equivalent word in English, the Hindi/Urdu word *neeyat* is the invisible seed from which every visible action originates. In mystical traditions across the world – Vedantic, Yogic, Buddhist or Sufi – intention is considered the true measure of a person and his deeds. *Neeyat* closely means intention, motive or the main purpose behind one's action; the inner mindset of moral direction behind what a person does. It is not a mere ordinary word but the most profound force that decides our karma and shapes our destiny.

The world only sees what we do and not why we do it. But the universe responds not to appearances but to sincerity and intent. When it is aligned with gratitude, struggles turn into lessons; when aligned with compassion, our relationships become healing spaces; and when aligned with faith, even uncertainty becomes a sacred journey. An act with good intention is guided by purpose and not ego.

In a world of noise, pomp and show, *neeyat* is our inner compass, the gentle rhythm of life where our actions weave the fabric of life. It brings us back to who we truly are. Our actions involve our body, but our intention stems from our mind and heart and maps the course of our soul's journey.

Amid 'poaching' charges, Shinde meets Amit Shah in Delhi

MUMBAI, DHNS: Rattled by the BJP's 'Operation Lotus' at the ground-level workers, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. The deliberations focused on the unease within the MahaYuti dispensation in the run-up to the one-year completion of the state government.

Eknath Shinde

Meanwhile, the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi mounted an offensive against the Devendra Fadnavis-led government, saying that Shinde must wake up and smell the coffee.

The Shinde-Shah meeting lasted for around 50 minutes at the national capital. "We are not the people who would cry... we are fighters," Shinde told reporters. "What has happened was sorted out (in Mumbai) among the allies (BJP, Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP)... We don't bring such issues to Delhi."

Pakistani lovers who crossed over to India booked for illegal entry

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Over 40 days after crossing into India through the Kutch border to be together against their parents' wishes, the Pakistani couple — Toto, alias Tara Chudi (20), and his lover Meena, alias Puja Chudi (19) — has been booked by the local police for illegal entry under the Foreigners and Passport Acts.

The FIR followed rounds of interrogation by local as well as security agencies at the Joint Interrogation Centre in Bhuj. The FIR, registered on November 18, stated that the couple's citizenship was established during questioning by different agencies.

The couple reportedly ran away from their homes sometime on October 4 and crossed the border on foot. They were apprehended in Ratanpar village on October 8. When they were caught, the couple had no belongings with them. During questioning, they told the police they were lovers and wanted to marry, but their families were against it.

The FIR, lodged at the Khadir Police Station, stated that they are from the indigenous Bhil community from the Lasri village in Pakistan's Sindh province.

During initial questioning, they claimed to be minors, but medical examinations revealed that Toto was 20 years old and Meena was 19. They were booked under sections of the Foreigners Act and the Passport Act

'Intellectuals more dangerous': Police oppose bail in riots case

SC hears opposition to bail of Khalid, Sharjeel in 2020 case

Umar Khalid

Sharjeel Imam

DELHI VIOLENCE

- Delhi Police say intellectuals turning terrorists more dangerous than ground-level operatives
- Cite the trend of doctors & engineers engaging in anti-national activities
- Cops say activists planned operations similar to those in Nepal and Bangladesh

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Delhi Police on Thursday told the Supreme Court that intellectuals turning terrorists are more dangerous than those working on the ground, as it opposed bail pleas in the larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 Delhi riots.

Appearing before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju argued that the accused had even planned operations similar to those in Nepal and Bangladesh.

The police strongly opposed bail for activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and others arrested in connection with the February 2020 violence.

"It has become a trend now for doctors and engineers to engage in anti-national activities," he said, alluding to the recent blast in Delhi and the arrests of doctors.

Raju said the speeches made by the activists in the case incited violence, which resulted in the deaths of 53 people and injuries to more than 500.

He also presented videos of Sharjeel Imam delivering "inflammatory speeches" against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), along with footage of him speaking at Chakhand, Jamia, Aligarh and Asansol in 2019 and 2020, before the February 2020 Delhi riots.

Raju further said that something was planned on the scale of Nepal and Bangladesh, though it did not materialise.

Pointing out that Imam is an engineering graduate, Raju submitted that there is now a trend of doctors and engineers abandoning their professions to engage in anti-national activities. The Delhi Police emphasised that the matter was not about simple protests but violent demonstrations, with the accused referring to blockades.

The court asked whether speeches were included in the chargesheet, to which Raju replied in the affirmative.

He also argued that the protests were deliberately timed with US President Donald Trump's visit to India to attract international media coverage, with the ultimate intention of regime change.

Raju argued that the CAA protests were a red herring, claiming the real objective was regime change and the creation of economic deprivation and chaos across the country. "These so-called intellectuals are more dangerous than ground-level terrorists," he said.

He contended that intellectuals, having benefited from state funding to become doctors, later engaged in nefarious activities.

The Delhi Police counsel submitted that the activists wanted to block supplies to Delhi and economically choke the 'Chicken's Neck' in Assam — the narrow stretch of land connecting the Northeast to the rest of India.

The matter arose from a challenge to the Delhi High Court's September 2 order, which had rejected the activists' bail pleas in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) concerning the alleged conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots.

Leave India in 24 hours: Assam to five 'foreigners'

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

FINAL ULTIMATUM

- The five women have been absconding since separate cases were registered against them
- The Foreigner Tribunals issued ex-parte orders after they did not turn up to defend themselves
- The action was taken as per provisions under Section 2 of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act 1950

Five women, who were declared foreigners by a tribunal in North Assam's Sonitpur district in October this year, have been asked to "remove" themselves from India within 24 hours.

However, the five, who lived in the Dhobokata village, have been "absconding" since separate cases were registered against them by the border branch of the state police in March 2006, which suspected them to be foreigners, said officials.

The Foreigner Tribunals had issued ex-parte orders against them as they did not turn up to defend themselves, they noted.

The women — identified as Hanufa, Mariyam Nessa, Fatema, Monowara, and Amjad — are Bengali-speaking Muslims, whom the ruling BJP considers infiltrators and a threat to the identity of the state's indigenous people.

The order, issued by Sonitpur District Commissioner Ananda Kumar Das on Wednesday, said the action was taken as per provisions under Section 2 of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act 1950 and the authority issued by the Assam government.

"Being a declared foreigner, your presence in India/Assam is detrimental to the interest of the general public and also for the internal security of the state," said the orders issued separately against the five.

The order further asked the five to "remove" themselves through the Dhubri, Sribhumi, South Salmara, or Mankachar routes. These districts share borders with Bangladesh.

"In case of default in complying with this order, the government would be compelled to take appropriate action to remove you from the territory of Assam," it said.

Action under new SOPs

This came after the Assam Cabinet in September approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to use the 1950 Act to "swiftly evacuate" post-1971 migrants from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The 1950 Act was enforced following large-scale immigration from erstwhile East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) following the Partition. However, the state later enacted other rules following allegations of harassment under the 1950 Act.

The Opposition Congress and the AIUDF, however, said the BJP-led government was taking such steps as part of its polarisation tactics in the run-up to Assembly elections slated early next year.

NIA arrests 4 more 'key conspirators' in Delhi blast case

Accused involved in arranging logistics for suicide bomber

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested four more "key accused" in the November 10 Red Fort blast, taking the total number of arrests to six as the probe into what officials describe as a "white-collar terror module" widens across Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh.

The four, Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai of Pulwama, Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather of Anantnag, Dr Shaheen Saeed of Lucknow, and Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay of Shopian, were taken into custody in Srinagar on production orders issued by the District Sessions Judge, Patiala House Court, Delhi.

According to the NIA, all of them played significant roles in planning, financing and facilitating the attack that killed 15 people and left many others injured.

The latest arrests come amid a series of developments that have brought multiple medical professionals under scrutiny. Earlier this month, the recovery of an AK-47 rifle from an unclaimed locker allotted to Dr Adeel at GMC Anantnag triggered checks across hospitals in J&K, deepening concerns about the depth of the module.

Investigators said the accused were involved in coordinating logistics, encrypted communication and ideological motivation for the suicide bomber, Dr Umar Nabi.

Fugitive under scanner

Meanwhile, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police has uncovered a fresh lead pointing to fugitive Indian Mujahideen operative Mirza Shadab Baig, an ex-student of Al-Falah University. According to officials, Baig, a native of UP's Azamgarh, is wanted for multiple blasts carried out in Rajasthan and Gujarat in 2008.

Baig fled India shortly after the 2008 attacks and has an Interpol Red Corner Notice active against him.

The NIA had already arrested two other suspects—Amir Rashid Ali, in whose name the vehicle used in the blast was registered, and Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish, who allegedly provided technical support to the bomber.

Wani's arrest led to a dramatic turn of events when his father, Bilal Ahmad Wani, set himself ablaze in Qazigund after reportedly being denied permission to meet his detained sons; he later succumbed to his injuries in Srinagar.

Officials said the probe is now pursuing leads related to funding channels, online radicalisation networks and possible cross-border coordination, adding that more arrests are likely as digital and financial evidence is examined.

Officials outside the Kashmir Times office during a raid by State Investigation Agency (SIA) as part of an ongoing probe into a terror module case, in Jammu, Thursday. PTI

Ammo seized from *Kashmir Times* office; editors slam raid

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The Jammu & Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Thursday raided the Jammu office of the Kashmir Times, prompting its editors to denounce the move as an attempt to 'intimidate and silence' the newspaper.

The raid followed an FIR in which the agency named Executive Editor Anuradha Bhasin, accusing her of 'anti-national activities' and spreading disaffection against the country.

The FIR alleged that the newspaper engaged in acts that 'glorify secessionism' and posed a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India and the Union Territory.

SIA officials reportedly recovered AK-47 cartridges, pistol rounds, and three grenade levers.

Sources said SIA teams entered the office early in the morning and conducted an extensive search for several hours, examining documents, computers, and digital devices to probe Bhasin's 'alleged links and activities that threaten the sovereignty of India'.

PRABODH JAMWAL & ANURADHA BHASIN
Editors, Kashmir Times

"The accusations levelled against us are designed to intimidate, to delegitimise, and ultimately to silence. We will not be silenced.

In a strongly-worded statement carried on the newspaper's website, editors Prabodh Jamwal and Anuradha Bhasin rejected the allegations as "false, motivated, and designed to intimidate, to delegitimise, and ultimately to silence".

"We have chronicled the region's triumphs and failures with equal rigour. We have given voice to communities that would otherwise go unheard. We are being targeted precisely because we continue to do this work," they said, adding that they would "not be silenced".

Calling the allegations an attack on press freedom, the editors urged the media fraternity, civil society, and citizens "who value their right to know" to recognise that this moment was a test of whether journalism could survive 'in an environment of increasing authoritarianism'.

Founded in 1954, Kashmir Times is among J&K's oldest English-language newspapers. Its founding editor, the late Ved Bhasin, was known for advocating dialogue, reconciliation, and human rights until his death in 2015.

Bhasin, who succeeded him, became widely known after she challenged the post-2019 communication blackout in the Supreme Court, a case that led to the landmark ruling that indefinite internet restrictions were unconstitutional.

The newspaper faced a series of administrative and legal challenges in recent years, including the sealing of its Srinagar office in 2020. Thursday's raid was the most serious action yet against it.

Bihar fallout: Fissures appear in Cong-SP alliance in UP

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Amid speculations of a possible re-thinking over continuing the alliance between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress in Uttar Pradesh for the 2027 Assembly polls, fissures appeared after two senior leaders of the parties traded barbs over the leadership of the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

SP leader Ravidas Mehrotra and a few others said that party chief Akhilesh Yadav should lead the alliance instead of the Congress.

However, Congress MP Imran Masood was quick to counter, saying that Rahul Gandhi was the undisputed leader of the Opposition alliance. "Let Akhilesh Yadav handle Uttar Pradesh first... There is no alternative to Rahul Gandhi in the alliance."

A Congress leader from UP, however, said that the alliance was intact. PTI FILE

He advised the SP leaders and Akhilesh to focus on the 2027 polls and cautioned them against making any remarks that could impact the alliance.

Earlier, there were talks of a rethink over the SP-Congress alliance, with some SP leaders stating that the Congress should accept the leadership of the regional satraps in the states. "Akhilesh is the biggest satrap in UP... he must get a major role in the I.N.D.I.A alliance," a SP leader had said.

The SP leader had said that the Bihar results had proved that the vote share of Congress had shrunk further. The political observers here feel that the Congress's hold in the Muslim community may have also weakened.

The state Congress leaders had sought to put up a brave face, claiming that the Bihar results would have no bearing on its alliance with SP. "Our alliance with SP is intact," said a UP Congress leader.

Ace shooter Shreyasi hits bullseye in Bihar

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Shreyasi Singh

It will be a rare occasion when Shreyasi Singh, the youngest minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet, and Tejashwi Yadav, the Leader of the Opposition-designate, come face to face in the Bihar Assembly. While she will be on the treasury benches, Tejashwi will lead the Opposition.

Both were students of the prestigious DPS, RK Puram in New Delhi, two decades ago.

While Tejashwi could not complete Standard X, Shreyasi, an Arjun awardee in shooting, completed her MBA before winning gold in the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

On November 20, Shreyasi again "struck gold" when she was inducted into the Cabinet as its youngest minister. The move was surprising as she is the daughter of late Union minister Digvijay Singh, with whom Nitish was always at loggerheads.

Such was the animosity that Vajpayee had to shift Digvijay from Union Minister of State for Railways to Union Minister of State for External Affairs when Nitish held the Railways portfolio. Their ties remained sour till Digvijay's passing.

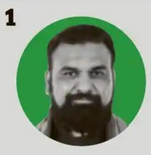
Shreyasi joined the BJP at the age of 29 and won from Jamui in the 2020 Assembly elections. In 2025, she again won from Jamui, part of her bastion: Her father won the Lok Sabha election from Banka as the Janata Dal (United) candidate.

Her mother, Putul Kumari, contested as an Independent (following Digvijay's death) and won the Lok Sabha election from Banka, before joining the BJP.

10 'Parivarwaad': Nitish's Cabinet of heirs

Of the 26 ministers in Nitish Kumar's new Cabinet, ten come from political dynasties.

Total Ministers: **26**
Dynast Ministers: **10**

1. 
Samrat Chaudhary — **son of** ex-minister Shakuni Chaudhary & ex-MLA Parvati Devi

2.
Santosh Suman Manjhi — **son of** Union Minister & former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi; **son-in-law of** MLA Jyoti Manjhi; **husband of** MLA Deepa Manjhi

3.
Deepak Prakash — **son of** Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha; **husband of** MLA Snehlata

4.
Shreyasi Singh — **daughter of** ex-Union minister Digvijay Singh & ex-MP Putul Kumari

5.
Rama Nishad — **daughter-in-law of** ex-Union minister Captain Jai Narayan Nishad; **wife of** ex-MP Ajay Nishad

6.
Ashok Chaudhary — **son of** ex-minister Mahavir Chaudhary; **father of** MP Shambhavi Chaudhary

7.
Vijay Chaudhary — **son of** ex-MLA Jagdish Prasad Chaudhary

8.
Nitin Nabin — **son of** ex-MLA Nabin Kishor Sinha

9.
Sunil Kumar — **son of** ex-minister Chandrika Ram; **brother of** ex-MLA Anil Kumar

10.
Leshi Singh — **wife of** former Samata Party district chief Butan Singh

Two officials on SIR duty in Rajasthan and Gujarat die; families allege work pressure

JAIPUR & NADIAD (GUJARAT), PTI

A supervisor engaged in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Rajasthan died after complaining of chest pains in Karauli, with family members alleging he had been under severe pressure due to the ongoing drive, officials said on Thursday.

Santram Saini (45), a school lecturer posted at the PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School in Hindaun and deployed as an SIR supervisor, complained of sudden chest pain at his home in Karsooli village and collapsed shortly after on Wednesday night.

Saini's family members told police that he had been under intense mental stress due to SIR-related workload and pressure from officials. They claimed he had recently received a notice linked to the exercise and had been unusually quiet for the past several days.

The police said the family did not file a formal complaint.

The death came a day after a Booth Level Officer (BLO) deployed on SIR duty in Sawai Madhopur died of a heart attack.

Gujarat BLO death

In a similar incident, a school teacher working as a BLO in Gujarat's Kheda district died of a heart attack, with his family attributing "excessive work pressure" linked to the ongoing SIR as the cause of his death.

The BLO, Rameshbhai Parmar (50), a resident of Jambudi village in Kapadvanj taluka of the district, died of a heart attack in his sleep at his home during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, his brother Narendra Parmar said.

Rameshbhai, a teacher at a government school in Navapura village in Kapadvanj, was recently given the duty of BLO, he said. "After finishing his work as a BLO, he returned home around 7.30 pm on Wednesday and once again started doing paperwork. ," according to him.

"He then went to sleep after having dinner. But when he did not wake up in the morning, we immediately took him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead. We believe that he suffered a heart attack due to excessive work pressure," the brother of the deceased added.

SIR's credibility at risk: Mamata

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Thursday, asking him to halt the SIR in West Bengal immediately, as the credibility of the exercise came under question, reports DHNS.

"The manner in which this exercise is being forced upon officials and citizens is not only unplanned and chaotic, but also dangerous," she wrote to the CEC, alleging that the absence of "basic preparedness, adequate planning or clear communication" had pushed the process into disarray. However, the BJP dismissed her criticism.

DECCAN HERALD
Friday
November 21, 2025

as 5-year ate, my is strong: amaiah

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

"I had informed the high command that a Cabinet reshuffle could be taken up after two and a half years. That is what has triggered discussions about a change in the chief minister. There are a total of 34 ministerial positions. In this, two are vacant. The vacant posts would be filled during the Cabinet reshuffle.

Minister D K Shivakumar becoming the chief minister, Siddaramaiah said that he would not react to such statements.

Regarding his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Siddaramaiah said, "We explained the damage caused by excess rainfall and sought compensation. We also highlighted issues faced by sugarcane growers and briefed the PM on discussions held with farmers and factory owners."

wer show n Park to n Nov 27

Entry & parking

Entry is Rs 30 for adults and Rs 10 for children. Schoolchildren in uniform with a valid ID can enter free. Parking arrangements will be increased during the exhibition.

G Kusuma, Deputy Director (Cubbon Park), Horticulture Department.

The exhibition will be set up from the Fountain Circle near the bandstand to the Bal Bhavan gate.

A key feature distinguishing this event from the annual Lalbagh show is the inclusion of an art display. Works by several artists, including Karnataka painter Rumale Chennabasaviah, will be exhibited. Cultural performances and competitions will also take place.

"Organisations such as the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association, Rumale Art House, and Indo American Hybrid Seeds have contributed to the exhibitions. We are all coming together to create a wholesome experience," added Kusuma.

The show will be inaugurated by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh on November 27, and be will on until December 7.

lks es

what the athlete should have done on ground wears athletes down, said Sania Mirza. "Social media should be taken with a pinch of salt. Everyone has a bad day at work, it's just that our bad day happens in front of the entire world," Mirza said.

Speaking about the same, Richa Ghosh said, "Women cricket didn't have a fan base. Now that it is growing, criticism is also increasing and I take it very positively."

Stressing on the importance of technology, Ghosh said, technology plays a pivotal role in improving our game. "Replaying our each stroke and learning right and wrong, helps us improve. Technology is also widely used in our recovery process," she said.

Bill assent: SC flags confusion in rulings

Says Tamil Nadu case at variance with earlier verdicts

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

While holding that the President and Governors cannot be bound by timelines in approving Bills, the Supreme Court observed that the judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case, which prescribed timelines for them to act on Bills, had created doubts and confusion.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and Atul S Chandurkar, in its opinions on the Presidential reference, pointed out, a state of doubt, or confusion, has arisen in relation to various issues concluded by this court in the case of Tamil Nadu on April 8, 2025, some of which were considered and decided in other decisions prior to it (many of which by benches of larger strength).

Authoritative opinion

In this context, the bench said, this court finds that an authoritative opinion of this court is mandated since the law on the functions of the Governor and the President under Article 200 and Article 201, cannot be left in a state of confusion, as it would impede the smooth functioning of the Constitution.

The bench also stressed that this court cannot shirk away from its responsibility to iron out the constitutional creases, to authoritatively clarify the roles of constitutional institutions, when doubts as to their roles and powers are raised.

It was also argued by states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, among others that it was impermissible to overrule an earlier precedent of this court, (particularly the April 8 judgment) while exercising jurisdiction under Article 143.

"On this aspect, we find it appropriate to refer to the opinion of Justice Y V Chandrachud, in 'In Re: Special Courts Bill 1978' where the binding effect of an opinion rendered under Article 143 jurisdiction, is discussed at length," the bench further said.

Justice Chandrachud had then said, though it is always open to this court to re-examine question already decided by it and to overrule, if necessary, the view earlier taken by it, insofar as all other courts in the territory of India are concerned they ought to be bound by the view expressed by this court even in the exercise of its advisory jurisdiction under Article 143(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court then accepted submission made by Attorney General R Venkatramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the present reference sought clarification of constitutional principles for future governance, and not the setting aside of an already awarded decree, or the relief granted.

- The Supreme Court said "inaction" by Governors that is "prolonged, unexplained and indefinite" will certainly invite "limited judicial scrutiny" though the merits of their action under Article 200 cannot be looked into by Courts.
- The top court held that the governor can reserve the bill for consideration of the President even in a second instance, when the bill is re-presented to him for assent by the assembly whether in amended or unamended form.
- SC refused to accept the preliminary objections raised by opposition-ruled states like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala to maintainability of Presidential Reference, saying the issues raised in it pertain to the very core and foundational modalities of the constitutional machinery.

DH DECIPHERS

President, Governors and bills: What SC said on assent & delay

In April, a Supreme Court bench gave an order setting a deadline for the President and Governors to give assent to bills presented before them after their passage by the state legislatures. A Constitution Bench subsequently scrutinised the order and gave its opinion on Thursday. **Sumit Pande** *explains the answers to the questions raised in the Presidential Reference sought by the Union on the apex court's earlier order that interpreted the powers of constitutional authorities in dealing with bills passed by the state legislature.*

What is the genesis of the case?
The Tamil Nadu government had approached the SC against the inordinate delay by Governor RN Ravi in giving consent to 10 bills passed by the Assembly. When passed by the Assembly again, the bills were reserved to the President for consideration.

What did the SC say on the TN government's plea?
Adjudicating on the plea, a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan held that withholding state legislation was erroneous. The court said Governors could grant assent, withhold assent or send the bill to the President. On being re-enacted by the state legislature, the Governor had no option but to give consent. It also set timelines for both the Governors and the President to decide on such matters.

What are the timelines?
The court prescribed three clear deadlines: (1) When withholding assent and reserving a bill for the president with the advice of the Council of Ministers, Governors must act within one month. (2) When withholding assent or reserving a bill for the President contrary to the advice of the state government, Governors must decide within three months, and (3) When a bill is presented after reconsideration by the Assembly, Governors must grant assent within one month. There are separate time limits for the President.

What did the SC say on the constitutional options before Governors?
In the case of "glaring circumstances of inaction", the court can issue "limited mandamus" to act under Article 200 within a reasonable time frame without getting into the merits of the discretion vested in Governors for discharge of duties. The limited directions by the courts serve as a form of "institutional accountability."

What were the questions raised in the reference?
The 14 queries ranged from the constitutional options before Governors and the President, to whether timelines can be imposed through judicial orders on two constitutional authorities when dealing with statutes passed by the state.

Why was the Presidential Reference made to the SC?
Article 143 of the Constitution gives powers to the President of India to seek an "advisory opinion" on questions of law that are of public importance. In this case, President Droupadi Murmu posed 14 questions on the interpretation of Articles 200 and 201 that define gubernatorial and presidential powers in the context of the apex court's April order imposing timelines for clearing bills. The matter was dealt by a five-member Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai.

What did the SC say on binding Governors and the President with fixed timelines?
The bench said the Governor is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers while "exercising functions under Article 240". The court felt the timelines set in the April judgment impinged on the powers vested in the constitutional authorities and were hence untenable. The court also struck down the concept of "deemed assent" to bills as prescribed in the earlier order, calling it antithetical to the spirit of the Constitution.

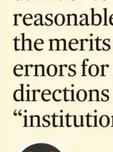
Can the decisions made by the President and Governors as per Articles 200 and 201 be taken up for judicial scrutiny?
The court has made it clear that the discharge of functions envisaged under Articles 200 and 201 is not justiciable. In other words, the decision can't be challenged in the court of law. However, once the bill becomes a law, it can be challenged.

P WILSON
DMK Rajya Sabha MP

"This was not a judgment, and it was only an opinion given by the apex court on the Presidential reference as per the Constitutional provisions. Such an opinion given today will not be binding on the apex court during adjudication The opinion given today, will not be binding in any manner.

BIMAN BANERJEE
West Bengal Assembly Speaker

"A Bill is brought for the benefit of the people. The government brings it, it is debated, and dissent is recorded. Once passed, it goes to the governor. He may give assent, refuse assent, or return it with recommendations. If returned and passed again, he must give assent.



MA BABY
CPM general secretary

"The Supreme Court's answer in response to the Presidential Reference is deplorable and shocking. Courts should not hesitate to play a meaningful role in ensuring proper checks and balances between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.

VIJAY HANSARIA
Senior advocate

"The SC's opinion on the Presidential reference does not bind the executive or the courts in the same way as a judgment delivered in an adversarial litigation, but it has high persuasive authority and high authoritative value. The advisory opinion does not displace existing precedent unless subsequently overruled in a regular adversarial judgment.

From Raj Bhavan to SC: TN govt's fight over bills

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

It was after Governor R N Ravi referred to the President of India 10 bills re-enacted by the Tamil Nadu Assembly that the DMK dispensation knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court seeking to declare as 'unconstitutional' his actions of indefinitely delaying assent to bills.

This was not the first time that the state complained against the Governor to the apex court. In December 2023, the SC asked both the chief minister and Governor to meet to iron out differences between the two institutions, but the meeting on December 30, 2023, did not make much headway.

What prompted the government to approach the Supreme Court once again was the Governor's actions in early 2024. He withheld his assent to 10 bills passed by the Assembly between 2020 and 2023 on November 10, 2023, and sent two to the President.

The state Assembly re-enacted all 10 bills, mostly relating to the functioning of state-funded universities, and sent them to the Governor on November 18, 2023.

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi with Chief Minister MK Stalin. PTI FILE PHOTO

However, the Governor chose to forward the bills to the President, which had been set aside, which peeved the government.

In April 2025, a two-judge bench declared this as erroneous in law and deemed it to have been assented to on the date when they were presented to the Governor after being reconsidered by the legislature.

On April 11, 2025, four days after the landmark judgement, the Tamil Nadu government notified 10 Acts without the approval of Governor Ravi following the Supreme Court verdict that the bills readopted by the Assembly, which were forwarded to the President, were deemed as having received assent.

After the judgment, the governor's office has cleared bills faster than earlier, sources in the government told *DH*. "He has cleared bills with a speed never seen before, but he did withhold assent for a few bills," the source added.

The Raj Bhavan had earlier this month said that 81% of the 211 Bills received since September 2021 have been assented to with 955 of them being granted within three months.

The Raj Bhavan said nine bills were reserved for the President, 16 bills were returned with a message to the Assembly and four bills were withdrawn by the state government, and 8 Bills were under review as of late October.

DMK has long harboured a deep aversion to the governor's post—its governments were dismissed twice, in 1976 and 1991—and fiercely contested Ravi's actions in the Supreme Court.

After 2 Maoist killings, focus shifts to Tippiri Tirupati

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

ANDHRA ENCOUNTERS

- Operation Kagar aims to end Naxalism nationwide by March 2026
- Pressure forces cadres to flee or surrender; top leaders relocate
- Several killed, including commander Nambala Keshava Rao
- Madvi Hidma and 'Tech Sankar' eliminated in Andhra forests

In two separate encounters over the past two days, security forces in Andhra Pradesh killed two senior CPI (Maoist) leaders and detained several cadres, shifting attention to the whereabouts of another key figure, Tippiri Tirupati.

Believed to have been appointed the new general secretary of the banned outfit, Tirupati has emerged as the central focus of Operation Kagar, the nationwide offensive aimed at ending Naxalism by March 2026. The operation may culminate in his capture, killing or surrender.

Sustained pressure in Chhattisgarh over the past year, which saw the deaths of hundreds of Maoists, including commander Nambala Keshava Rao, has forced many cadres to flee to other regions or surrender. Senior ideologue Mallojula Venugopal Rao is reported to have moved to Maharashtra, while another leader, Rupesh, remained in Chhattisgarh. Several others surrendered, handing over large quantities of arms.

The elimination of the elusive Bastar tribal leader Madvi Hidma and IED expert Tech Sankar in Andhra on Tuesday and Wednesday confirms that several top Maoists have relocated from Chhattisgarh.

Notably, among 50 operatives arrested recently from urban areas in Andhra Pradesh, most belonged to the protection groups of Hidma and Tirupati, officials of Andhra's anti-Naxal operations said. This has raised speculation about Tirupati's current status. Civil liberties and human rights groups, along with Maoist front organisations, allege that he was secretly detained during this week's encounters in Alluri Sitarama Raju district—a claim denied by Andhra intelligence chief Mahesh Kumar Ladda.

In August–September, continuing the tradition of Telugu leaders at the helm of Maoist movement, Tippiri Tirupati, alias Devji, a Madiga Dalit from Korutla in Telangana's erstwhile Karimnagar district, was reportedly chosen as new general secretary. However, ratification of his appointment by the top body of the CPI Maoists Central Committee is said to be pending, as the panel has been unable to meet due to ongoing operations.

Tirupati, in his 60s, succeeded Nambala Keshava Rao, alias Basava Raj, whose death during Operation Kagar on May 21 marked a watershed moment — the first time in decades that the Maoists lost their supreme leader and that such a high-ranking Naxalite was killed by security forces.

Intelligence sources say two leaders were under consideration to replace Keshava Rao — Tirupati, head of the Central Military Commission, and Mallojula Venugopal Rao, the ideological chief. Since the launch of Operation Kagar, the Maoist leadership has remained scattered and unable to convene.

A mahout holds the tusk of a caparisoned elephant during the 'Sheeveli' procession as part of the 'Vrischikolsavam' festival, in Kochi, on Thursday. PTI

Cong slams govt over US panel's claim of Pak 'military success'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress on Thursday attacked the government over a US commission report that mentioned "Pakistan's military success over India" in a four-day clash, calling it "yet another severe setback" to India's diplomacy and questioning whether the Prime Minister and the Ministry of External Affairs would register their protest.

In a post on X, Ramesh said the 12-member US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, created by the US Senate and House of Representatives, had released its 2025 annual report, which runs nearly 800 pages. He said the references on pages 108 and 109 were "astonishing and beyond understanding." He noted that report described the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, which India says was orchestrated by Pakistan, as an "insurgent attack," and referred to "Pakistan's military success over India" in 4-day clash.

SMART WARSHIPS

Navy seeks govt nod for next-gen missile destroyers

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With China augmenting its naval fleet, the Indian Navy is set to seek the government's approval to construct at least five next-generation guided missile destroyers that will not only pack more firepower but will also carry a host of emerging technologies, making them "smart warships", a top official said here on Thursday.

"We have worked out a good design and hope to receive the AON (acceptance of necessity) approval from the government in this financial year and award the contracts within the next two years," Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan said.

These warships will be significantly more advanced than the Visakhapatnam-class destroyers that the Indian Navy currently operates.

With a displacement of around 11,000 tonnes, sources said, the new platforms would be larger than the Kolkata-class and the Visakhapatnam-class warships. Many emerging technologies that the maritime force is developing will be integrated into these surface combatants.

Vice Admiral Vatsayan said the navy tested some of these smart technologies in a trial platform and further consolidated them for smart ships of the future.

The disclosure from the Navy Vice Chief comes days after China's People's Liberation Army Navy got its third and most advanced aircraft carrier, Fujian, the world's largest non-nuclear military ship, which will be a force multiplier for the world's largest navy.

According to a new report presented before the US Congress, the PLA Navy's overall battle force in 2024 included over 370 ships and is projected to increase to 395 ships by 2025 and 435 ships by 2030. In July 2025, the PLAN unveiled a new amphibious assault ship that will be a drone carrier.

US will welcome skilled immigrants to teach Americans, says Trump

US President backs foreign talent despite pushback from hardliners

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

President Donald Trump said he will "welcome" skilled immigrants to the US to help "teach" American workers how to develop complex products such as chips and missiles, acknowledging he may face "a little heat" from supporters who favour strict immigration limits.

Addressing the US–Saudi Investment Forum on Wednesday, Trump said a large number of plants, including "extremely complex" facilities, are being built in the US and will contribute significantly to economic growth.

He said that, given the sophisticated nature of products that will be manufactured — including telephones, computers and missiles — companies will need to bring in skilled workers from abroad who can share expertise and train American workers. "And I may take a little heat. I always take a little heat from my people — the people that love me and the people that I love. They happen to be toward the right of centre; sometimes they are way right," Trump said at the event attended by visiting Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

US President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the US-Saudi Investment Forum in Washington DC on Wednesday. REUTERS

The US President said companies must bring in workers "to get those plants opened. We want you to do that, and we want those people to teach our people how to make computer chips and other things." "They're going to have to bring thousands of people with them, and I'm going to welcome those people," he said. Trump added that many who oppose this approach are "really, really smart" and "unbelievable patriots", but they "don't understand that the American people have to be taught".

"This is something they've never done, and we're not going to be successful if we don't allow people who invest billions of dollars in plants and equipment to bring their people to get that plant open, operating and working. I'm sorry," he said, drawing applause. "So my poll numbers just went down, but with smart people they've gone way up." Trump also said he values his conservative supporters. "I love MAGA, but this is MAGA," he said, referring to his Make America Great Again ideology.

He assured companies setting up new plants that they will receive support: "You're going to teach our people how to do it, and our people are going to be just as good as your people ever were — in not such a long period of time." US companies often use visas such as H-1B and L1 to hire skilled foreign workers. The Trump administration has cracked down heavily on illegal immigration, and some supporters have also urged restrictions on H-1B visas, citing alleged abuse and job losses.

Trump referenced the immigration raid at Hyundai's battery plant in Georgia, where hundreds of workers were detained. He said batteries are "very dangerous" and "complex" to manufacture, and that the issue had since been resolved, allowing foreign workers to train Americans.

He reiterated that a major chip plant cannot be operated "with people who don't even know what a chip looks like".

In an interview earlier this month, Trump defended the H-1B programme, saying the US must bring in global talent because "you don't have certain talents" domestically.

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"You're going to teach our people how to do it, and our people are going to be just as good as your people ever were – in not such a long period of time.

Trump signs bill to release Jeffrey Epstein case files after fighting it for months

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: President Donald Trump signed legislation on Wednesday that compels his administration to release files on convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, bowing to political pressure from his own party after initially resisting those efforts.

Trump could have chosen to release many of the files on his own months ago.

"Democrats have used the Epstein' issue, which affects them far more than the Republican Party, in order to try and distract from our AMAZING Victories," Trump said in a social media post as he announced he had signed the bill.

Now, the bill requires the Justice Department to release all files and communications related to Epstein, as well as any information about the investigation into his death in a federal prison in 2019, within 30 days. It allows for redactions about Epstein's victims for ongoing federal investigations, but DOJ cannot withhold information due to "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity."

It was a remarkable turn of events for what was once a farfetched effort to force the disclosure of case files from an odd congressional coalition of Democrats, one GOP antagonist of the president, and a handful of erstwhile Trump loyalists.

As recently as last week, the Trump administration even summoned one Republican proponent of releasing the files, Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, to the Situation Room to discuss the matter, although she did not change her mind.

But over the weekend, Trump did a sharp U-turn on the files once it became clear that congressional action was inevitable. He insisted the Epstein matter had become a distraction to the GOP agenda and indicated he wanted to move on.

Ex-Treasury chief Summers quits OpenAI board

Former US Treasury secretary Larry Summers will stop teaching at Harvard University and step down from the OpenAI board after Congress released emails linking him to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, AFP reports from Washington. The emails, which showed he was in close communication with Epstein, prompted him to take the decision.

US will not take part in G20 talks: White House

JOHANNESBURG, AP/PTI: A representative from the US Embassy in South Africa will attend the formal handover ceremony at the end of this weekend's Group of 20 summit in Johannesburg, but the United States will still not take part in any talks, a White House official said Thursday.

The official, who was not authorised to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, was responding to comments by South Africa's president that the US had indicated it had a "change of mind" over its boycott at the "11th hour" and would take part in the summit.

US President Donald Trump announced this month that no US government official would attend the two-day meeting of world leaders from rich and developing countries in South Africa's biggest city.

Trump cited South Africa's alleged race-based persecution of its white Afrikaner minority as the reason for the US boycott. The US is due to take over the rotating presidency of the G20 from South Africa, and a formal handover ceremony is traditional at the end of each summit.

Ramaphosa has previously expressed disappointment that the US boycott would mean he hands over to an "empty chair" at the end of the summit.

US-Russia draft plan sparks tension as Kyiv blindsided

Europe demands consultation on reported Ukraine peace proposal

KYIV, AP/PTI

The US and Russia have drawn up a plan aimed at ending the war in Ukraine that calls for major concessions from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, according to a person familiar with the matter.

As reports of the proposal emerged, blindsided European diplomats insisted they and Ukraine must be consulted.

The plan, first reported by Axios, includes significant concessions from Ukraine, according to a person familiar with the matter, including granting Russia several of its long-standing demands since it launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbour nearly four years ago.

US special envoy Steve Witkoff has been quietly working on the plan for a month, receiving input from both the Ukrainians and the Russians on terms acceptable to each side to end the war, according to a senior US official who was not authorised to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Trump, the official added, has been briefed on the plan and supports it.

A psychologist comforts a resident in front of a building that was hit by a Russian missile in Ternopil on Thursday. REUTERS

Talk of a secret peace proposal has added pressure on Zelenskyy, who is simultaneously directing Ukraine's defences against Russia's larger military, visiting European capitals to shore up support, and confronting a major corruption scandal in the embattled energy sector that has caused public anger.

European leaders have already been alarmed this year by signs that Trump's administration may be sidelining them and Zelenskyy in its push to halt the fighting.

SECRET PROPOSAL

- Deal would recognise Russia's control of Crimea and occupied regions, and may force Ukraine to withdraw from parts of Donetsk and Lugansk.
- Ukraine would reduce its army to 400,000 troops and give up long-range weapons, aligning closely with earlier Russian demands.
- Plan reportedly drafted in secret consultations; unclear if it reflects Trump's own stance or that of his advisers.

Spanish court orders Meta to pay news outlets

BARCELONA, AP/PTI: Spanish legacy media companies in Spain scored a victory against social media giant Meta after a Madrid-based court ordered on Thursday that it must pay news outlets nearly half a billion euros in damages.

According to a court statement, the Mercantile Court No 15 of Madrid ruled that Mark Zuckerberg's social media giant had exercised an unfair market advantage by extracting personal data of internet users in violation of European law and using it to create more effective advertising.

The parent company of Instagram and Facebook will have to pay 481 million in damages to 81 Spanish media outlets.

Pak forces kill 23 militants

PESHAWAR, PTI: Security forces killed 23 Taliban militants in two separate engagements in northwest Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan, the army said on Thursday.

The troops gunned down 12 militants belonging to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan during the operation in Kurram district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Fresh clashes in Nepal as Gen Z protesters defy curfew

KATHMANDU, PTI

Fresh tension erupted on Thursday after 10 people were injured when Gen Z youths clashed with members of ousted prime minister K P Sharma Oli's party, prompting authorities to reimpose a curfew to contain the situation in Nepal's Bara district bordering India.

Tension escalated at Simara Chowk as youths returned to the streets a day after confronting cadres of Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) (CPN-UML). They accused police of failing to arrest individuals named in their complaint over Wednesday's clashes, The Kathmandu Post reported. Protesters began gathering at Simara Chowk from 11 am. The Bara district administration imposed a curfew from 1 pm to 8 pm (local time) to prevent further violence and damage to property.

"However, the prohibitory order failed to take effect, with demonstrators pouring into the streets and clashing with police. Authorities fired six tear gas canisters and two rounds of aerial fire after protesters defied the curfew and continued advancing," news portal Khabarhub said. "Protesters also pelted stones at security forces, injuring six police personnel, while four Gen Z protesters were also reported injured," it added.

In a separate incident, Gen Z demonstrators set fire to a police beat at Simara Bazaar. The portal said items from the UML office were removed and torched by protesters, who accused police of hesitating to arrest UML cadres involved in earlier clashes.

Clashes had first broken out on Wednesday, when news spread that CPN-UML general secretary Shankar Pokharel and party youth leader Mahesh Basnet were travelling from Kathmandu to Simara to address an anti-government rally. Gen Z protesters gathered at the airport to oppose their arrival, triggering confrontations with local CPN-UML cadres. Authorities then imposed a curfew around the airport to bring the situation under control.

Police have since arrested two UML cadres—ward chairpersons Dhan Bahadur Shrestha and Kaimoddin Ansari—on charges of assaulting Gen Z youths during Wednesday's clashes.

Fire forces evacuation at UN climate talks

BELEM, REUTERS

A fire that forced an evacuation of the COP30 climate summit in the Brazilian city of Belem on Thursday was under control, officials said, although it was unclear whether delegates would return immediately to continue negotiations.

Brazil's tourism minister told reporters at the venue that the fire was under control and no one was hurt, but that he did not know whether delegates would be able to return today or Friday to the part of the venue where the summit negotiations were taking place.

Summit organisers also confirmed the fire was under control.

The summit in the Amazon city was initially scheduled to wrap up on Friday, but it missed a self-imposed Wednesday deadline to secure agreement among the nearly 200 countries present on issues including how to increase climate finance and shift away from fossil fuels. The fire scare occurred in what is already a hive of activity during the summit's two-week run, interrupting ongoing negotiations inside the venue.

A video screen grab shows emergency crews battling a fire at the COP30 meet in Belem on Thursday. AFP

A siren sent delegates, observers and journalists running for the exits with their belongings, as police lined up as a barrier to prevent anyone from nearing the area where the fire was reported.

Television footage showed flames and smoke inside the venue, a conference centre on the site of a former airport.

Since kicking off earlier this month, the summit has drawn multiple protests demanding climate action and forest protection, at times interrupting talks.

Russia, China to deepen missile defence cooperation

MOSCOW, REUTERS: Russia and China held talks in Moscow this week on missile defence and strategic stability, agreeing to strengthen cooperation in both areas, the Russia said on Thursday.

The ministry disclosed no details of the talks, which took place amid concern in both countries over US President Donald Trump's plans to build a "Golden Dome" missile shield and his stated intention to resume nuclear weapons testing.

"An in-depth discussion... took place, including a joint analysis of destabilising factors creating strategic risks to global and regional security, as well as an exchange of views on ways to minimise them," the ministry said.

Trump has said he wants to pursue "denuclearisation" with both Russia and China, but Beijing has rejected nuclear arms talks.

MIGRATION OVERHAUL

UK to double settlement wait under new 'earned' model

LONDON, PTI

The UK government tabled its proposal in Parliament on Thursday to double the period international migrants, including Indians, would be expected to wait before applying for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) under a new "earned settlement" model.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood told the House of Commons that settling in the UK was "not a right but a privilege", as she confirmed the current five-year automatic ILR route will be doubled for the majority of applicants.

Under the changes, low-paid workers will be subject to a 15-year wait for ILR and migrants accessing taxpayer-funded benefits would have to wait for as long as 20 years to be able to access settled status.

At the other end of the spectrum, skilled professionals employed in front-line sectors such as the National Health Service (NHS) and higher-earning entrepreneurs will have access to a fast-tracked route to ILR, after five years or less. "To settle in this country forever is not a right, but a privilege, and it must be earned," Mahmood told MPs. "I am replacing a broken immigration system with one that prioritises contribution, integration and respect for the British sense of fair play," she said.

Mahmood, who described her family who migrated to the UK in the 1960s and 1970s as "proud Kashmiris", said the changes are designed for a "fairer pathway" to settlement in a country where the pace and scale of migration have "not just been unprecedented but also destabilising".

"Between 2021 and 2024, we have seen net migration of an additional 2.6 million people. Around one in every 30 people in this country today arrived in these four years. This extraordinary open border experiment was the legacy of the last Conservative government," said the minister.

The changes will apply to the over 2 million migrants who arrived in the UK from 2021, under a so-called "Boriswave" named after the then-prime minister Boris Johnson.

Overall, the changes are targeted at the estimated 1.6 million people qualifying for ILR between 2026 and 2030, with a peak of 4,50,000 expected to be hit in 2028.

Cabin outso

Till then, worke under 'Bidar m

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka should completely end the "outsource" system of employment in government jobs, boards and corporations in a phased manner by March 2028, a Cabinet sub-committee has recommended.

"There are over three lakh vacant posts which are being filled on outsource, insource, daily wage and other ways through agencies. As a result, reservations are not being followed as per the Constitution and state laws. It's an urgent

Muslim quota

BENGALURU, DHNS: At least 10 Bills, passed by the Assembly, are awaiting Presidential assent, which includes enactments making Kannada medium of instruction in primary education and introducing quota for Muslims in contracts.

The Supreme Court's view on Thursday that no timeline can be fixed for Governors and the President to give their assent could become a setback for Karnataka where the government is keen to enact the Bills.

"The Supreme Court judgement allowing the President and Governors to hold on to Bills without a defined time limit is deeply unfortunate and raises serious concerns," Congress MLC Ramesh Babu said.

"Such an interpretation effectively creates a veto by delay, enabling unelected Constitutional authorities to stall the functioning of duly-elected governments," Babu said.

Karnataka's Bill amending the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act is pending Presidential assent since May 2015. Introduced by the first Siddaramaiah government, the Bill sought to make mother tongue

Train pris stitch

60 inmates at Shivamogga Central Prison were coached by a pvt garment firm

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

'A stitch in time saves nine,' goes the age-old adage. For the inmates of the Shivamogga Central Prison in Sogane, tailoring classes inside the jail could well help them stitch a bright future once they leave the walls of the jail. As many as 60 inmates at the prison, each of whom have completed a three-month-long training module in tailoring inside the jail, are all but assured of a job at a private garment company – Shahi Exports Private Limited.

The company deployed its personnel to the Shivamogga Central Prison for the express purpose of training the inmates, including those awaiting trial. The course was conducted for the inmates from August 26 till November 17. The inmates who successfully completed the module will be

Haveri

HAVERI, DHNS: A six-member expert committee has been formed to investigate the death of a newborn at women and child hospital in Haveri.

Robbers steer car owner...

Robber, from Page 1

A six-member gang posing as RBI officials arrived in a grey metallic Toyota Innova and intercepted a CMS Info System cash van near the Ashoka Pillar in Jayanagar between 12.30 pm and 1 pm on November 19. The van, carrying cash from HDFC Bank's JP Nagar branch, was headed towards Lalbagh's Siddapura Gate.

The gang forced the three crew members into their car but deboarded them midway.

The van driver was asked to wait at the Dairy Circle flyover, where the gang allegedly threatened him at gunpoint, transferred the cash boxes into the Innova and drove off.

The Innova bore the registration number of Gangadhar's Swift.

Adulterated ghee case: SIT questions ex-TTD chairman

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A Central Bureau of Investigation-led Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday questioned former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) chairman and YSRCP MP Y V Subba Reddy in connection with the ongoing probe into the alleged supply of adulterated ghee — used in preparing the famed Tirumala laddu prasadam — during his tenure.

SIT officials interrogated Subba Reddy, who is also the uncle of YSRCP chief and former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, for nearly seven hours at his residence in Hyderabad's Banjara Hills locality.

The questioning reportedly focused on his role in the procurement of ghee and possible relaxation of tender norms during his time as the TTD Board chairman. Officials also referred to statements given by his personal assistant, Chinna Appanna.

After the interrogation, SIT officials recorded Subba Reddy's statement and were said to have indicated that he might be called in again if required.

Sources said the questioning was based on documents and testimonies previously provided by Appanna, former TTD executive officer A V Dharma Reddy, and several other senior officials.

Cow ghee is a key ingredient in preparing Tirumala laddus and other temple prasadams. The daily average requirement is estimated at around 15,000 kg.

The TTD procures ghee in bulk tankers under the Agmark Special Grade label through six-month contracts from three main sources — national dairies (20 lakh kg), dairies within a 1,500-km radius (10 lakh kg), and Andhra Pradesh-based dairies (5 lakh kg).

No timelines for the Guv or Prez...

Supreme Court, From Page 1

The court had then also granted deemed assent to a few Bills sent to the President by the Tamil Nadu Governor.

The five-judge, however, said, "Article 361 of the Constitution is an absolute bar on judicial review in relation to personally subjecting the Governor to judicial proceedings."

However, it cannot be relied upon to negate the limited scope of judicial review that this court is empowered to exercise in situations of prolonged inaction by the Governor under Article 200, the bench added.

The court also clarified that while the Governor continued to enjoy personal immunity, the constitutional office is subject to the jurisdiction of this court.

The court also said that there is no question of a law made by the State Legislature coming into force without assent of the Governor under Article 200. The Governor's legislative role under Article 200 cannot be supplanted by another constitutional authority, it stated.

Trump claims Modi told him India not going to war with Pak

Trump, from Page 1

This was also the first time the president claimed that his intervention was intended to save the US from nuclear fallout.

"...I'm good at settling disputes, and I've always been. I've done very well with that over the years, even before this. I was talking about the different wars... India, Pakistan... they were going to go at it, nuclear weapons," he said.

Trump said he had conveyed to New Delhi and Islamabad that they could keep fighting against each other, but he would put a 350% tariff on both nations, and they would find it difficult to continue trade with the US.

He said that both India and Pakistan had told him not to impose tariffs on them, but he had replied: "I'm going to do it. Come back to me and I'll take it down. But I'm not going to have you guys shooting nuclear weapons at each other, killing millions of people and having the nuclear dust floating over Los Angeles. I'm not going to do it."

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan had called him and thanked him, in front of White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, for saving millions of lives by brokering the ceasefire.

He also claimed that he had "got a call from Prime Minister Modi saying, 'we're done'". He had then asked Modi: "You're done with what?" Trump claimed that Modi had replied: "We're not going to go to war".

He had then thanked Modi and said, "Let's make a deal", according to the account of the exchanges between Washington and New Delhi presented by the US president.

New Delhi, over the past three months, repeatedly refuted the US claim about brokering the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

SIT submits report to Belthangady...

SIT, from Page 1

The SIT was handed over the case on July 19, 2025.

Over the past four months, the SIT had examined witness statements, analysed digital and circumstantial evidence and conducted multiple rounds of inquiry. The team also coordinated with forensic experts and technical agencies to piece together the sequence of events in order to identify the role of each individual implicated in the alleged conspiracy.

According to senior sources in the SIT, the report submitted to the court is being treated only as a preliminary report. Many crucial documents, particularly Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports, had not yet been received. Due to these pending documents, the submission is being categorised as a provisional report rather than a conclusive one.

The sources added that the voluminous report includes findings related to perjury and false testimony given before the court. It also contains information on the skull allegedly used by the accused to mislead the judiciary and fabricate evidence. "The report essentially centres on the role of these six individuals and their conspiracy to mislead the court of law and the legal system," the sources said.

SIT officials, however, emphasised that the submission of the report does not mark the closure of the investigation. Inquiries into the broader allegations of mass burial, suspicious suicides and incidents reported from Banglegudde and surrounding areas in Dharmasthala are still ongoing.

"The investigation will continue to unearth the truth. This is only a preliminary submission," senior officials told *DH* when contacted.

Meanwhile, the SIT led by Chief Investigating Officer Jitendra Kumar Dayama has held extensive discussions with Special Public Prosecutor to decide the next course of action. The discussions centred on if the accused persons should be arrested, whether fresh notices were required, or what other steps could be taken in view of their non-cooperation to the ongoing probe.

Nitish takes oath as Bihar CM for 10th time...

Nitish Kumar, from Page 1

The biggest surprise was the induction of Deepak Prakash, son of former Union minister and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) president Upendra Kushwah. It was widely speculated that Kushwaha's wife, Snehlata Kushwaha, who won from Sasaram, would be sworn in as a minister.

However, on Thursday, Deepak was found sitting among those who were likely to take oath. Notably, he is neither a member of the Legislative Assembly nor Legislative Council.

With his father a Rajya Sabha member and mother an MLA, Deepak's entry demolishes the dynasty charge often levelled by the ruling alliance against the Opposition camp. But then Deepak was not alone representing the dynasts. Shreyasi Singh of the BJP, who won gold in the Commonwealth Games shooting and has won from Jamui on a BJP ticket for the second time, was also sworn in as a minister.

Her father late Digvijay Singh was Union minister of state for external affairs in the Vajpayee government, while her mother Putul Kumari was earlier a Lok Sabha MP from Banka.

The other dynasts who were sworn-in included Rama Nishad (wife of Ajay Nishad, former BJP MP from Muzaffarpur), Santosh Suman (MLC and son of Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi) and Nitin Nabin (son of former BJP MLA Naveen Kishore Sinha). Among the JD (U) veterans who retained their ministerial position included Vijay Choudhary, Bijendra Yadav, Shrawan Kumar and Ashok Choudhary. The sole Muslim face in the Cabinet, Jama Khan, is a JD (U) MLA from Chainpur, bordering Uttar Pradesh.

PM Modi congratulated Nitish through a post on X, saying Nitish was an experienced administrator with a proven track record of good governance of many years.

Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav too congratulated Nitish and hoped he, as the CM, will fulfil all the promises made during the elections.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the matter of Arbitration Application No.203 of 2022, pending before the Hon'ble Sole Arbitrator, Shri Justice P. Naveen Rao, Former Judge, High Court of Telangana.

Notice is hereby given to:

1. **Respondent No. 1: Spectro Alloys and Pigments,**
An unregistered partnership firm, Having its office at: No. 56, Road No. 3, Jigani Industrial Area, Jigani, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru- 560105, Karnataka. **Email:** spectroalloysandpigments@gmail.com

2. **Rakesh Kumar Agarwal,**
Partner, Spectro Alloys and Pigments, S/o. Late Mohanlal Gupta, Aged about 47 years, Residing at: No. B-506, Wilson Manor Apartments, 13th Cross, Brand Factory, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru – 560027, Karnataka. Mobile No: 72859 12634
Email: spectroalloysandpigments@gmail.com
Also at: Flat No. A-005, Wilson Manor Apartments, 13th Cross, Brand Factory, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru – 560027, Karnataka.

3. **Sapna Agarwal,**
Partner, Spectro Alloys and Pigments, W/o. Rakesh Kumar Agarwal, Aged about 43 years, Residing at: No. B-506, Wilson Manor Apartments, 13th Cross, Brand Factory, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru – 560027, Karnataka. Mobile No: 95916 96161
Email: spectroalloysandpigments@gmail.com
Also at: Flat No. A-005, Wilson Manor Apartments, 13th Cross, Brand Factory, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru – 560027, Karnataka.

That the notices issued to your registered and last known addresses in the above-mentioned arbitration proceedings have been returned unserved.

You are hereby informed and called upon to remain present on 08.12.2025 at 8:00 pm virtually before the Hon'ble Arbitrator, either in person or through an authorised representative, failing which the arbitration proceedings shall continue ex-parte, as permissible under law.

This public notice is issued in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Arbitrator.

By Order of the Hon'ble Arbitrator
Date: 10.11.25
Place: Bangalore

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, DRDO
Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.
C.V. RAMAN NAGAR, BENGALURU - 560 093.
Phone : 080 25243919
Email ID : kvdrdobangalore@gmail.com, Website : drdobangalore.kvs.ac.in

Ref.: F.KV.DRDO/SF/2025-26/ DATE : 19.11.2025

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR CONTRACTUAL TEACHERS : 2025-26

Walk-in-Interview will be conducted at **Kendriya Vidyalaya DRDO, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru – 560093** for the empanelment of teachers on a part-time contractual basis for the Academic Year 2025–26 for the categories of posts mentioned below :

DATE OF INTERVIEW : 24.11.2025 TIME : 10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon
POSTS / SUBJECTS : Trained Graduate Teachers (TGT) – Hindi, Mathematics and Social Science

For detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, qualifications and remuneration, candidates may visit the **Vidyalaya Website : drdobangalore.kvs.ac.in.**
Candidates are required to bring their Year-wise / Semester-wise Original Certificates, One Set of Self-attested Photocopies, One Recent Passport-size Photograph, Work Experience Certificates, and any other Relevant Documents on the day of the Walk-in-Interview.

SD/- GLORY GNANASELVI
PRINCIPAL I/C

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE III ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE KOLAR (SITTING AT K.G.F.)
R.A. No. 26/2024.
BETWEEN: C. Yadavan ...Appellant
-V/s-
AND: Bharat Gold Mines Ltd and others **...Respondents**
Respondent No.2: Praveen Kumar Sharma, aged about 66 years, DIG Police, CRPF (Retired) CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110001.

NOTICE

The above-named appellant has filled Regular Appeal for relief of setting aside the order and Decree passed in O.S. 50/2016 filed before the Hon'ble Principal Civil Judge and JMFC, K.G.F. You being Respondent No. 2, Sri. Praveen Kumar Sharma, aged about 66 years, DIG Police, CRPF (Retired) CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110001 are summoned to appear before this Court on **18/12/2025** at **11:00 A.M.** in person or through an Advocate/Pleader to answer the questions to the same.
Failing which the Appeal will be heard and determined as Ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 18/11/2025.
By order of the Court, Sheristedar, III Addl. District & Sessions Court Kolar (SITTING AT K.G.F)

Advocate for Appellant: **P. Raghavan**
Raghu Nivas, D.V. Gundappa Road, Robertsonpet K.G.F.- 563 122, Phone no.9448962836.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/148/2025 Dated 13.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, Customization, Implementation, Operations & Maintenance support of Integrated Project Management and information system (PMIS) for various projects under South Western Railway. **(Tender Ref. No. PMIS-SWR-01)**	**Rs. 6,66,00,380/-**

Date of Closing

Existing	Revised
25.11.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	**10.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/641/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B-TRD-29-2025-26-OT-27 Dated:13-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive maintenance Contract for Tower Wagons of Bengaluru Division for 3 years.	Rs. 12,03,98,752.74

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD
PUB/657/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

S.NIJALINGAPPA SUGAR INSTITUTE, BELAGAVI
C.T.S.No.4125/1B, Ganeshpur Road, Laxmi Tek, Belagavi-590 009 (Karnataka)
(O) : 0831- 2472482, Fax : 0831-2472464. Email: snsibgm@yahoo.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Tender No. SNSI/2025-26/IND0004 dated 19.11.2025 for Supply, installation, commissioning of Various equipments at S. Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Belagavi is floated.

1. The Contractors are invited for Supply , installation, commissioning of Various equipments viz., Atomic Digital Polarimeter and Spectophotometer at S.Nijaligappa Sugar Institute, Belagavi.
2. The details for Production of Sugar Technology Laboratory at S.Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Belagavi and requirements can be viewed in SNSI/2025-26/IND0004 from e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
3. The last date for receipt of the tender documents in the e-procurement portal is on **02.12.2025 upto 17.30 hrs.**

Date:19.11.2025 Sd/- Director

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** form the capable reputed firms/contractors for the following works. **Tender No. 96255634. Description:** Manufacture & Supply of 6400 mm O/R (Curved) Fan Shaped Switches 1 in 8.5, T/Out for BG (1673 mm) 60 kg on PSC Sleepers to RDSO DRG. No. T-4966 Alt.7. **Quantity:** 30 Set. **Earnest Money (INR):** Rs. 2,50,560/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in: 01.12.2025 after 11.30.** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Material Manager
CR, Solapur
Akar/Sur-73

Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works.**1. E-Tender Notice No.: 42-2025-SrDENC. Name of Work:** Provision of Rubberized surface at LC 31,70 in KWV-MRJ and at LC 03 in SUR-WD section. **Approximate cost of work:** ₹ 89,45,687.25. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,78,900/-. **Completion period of the work:** 06 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 60 Months. **2. 43-2025-SrDENC. Name of Work:** Proposal for vegetation and jungle cleaning at various Railway Colonies, Offices and Service buildings in LUR-KWV, KWV-MRJ, BRB-KWV section twice a year for two years unders Sr. DEN(C)SUR. **Approximate cost of work:** ₹ 2,55,56,017.28. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,77,800/-. **Completion period of the work:** 24 Months. **Maintenance Period:** Nil. **Last Date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website: 08/12/2025** upto **15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in 08/12/2025** at **15.30 hrs.** The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. Website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (Works)
CR, Solapur
Akar/Sur-74

Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. : MC_ WC_ BioLab _2025, dt. 11.11.2025. Sealed Open tenders are invited by Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room No. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 on 'SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM' in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work : **Name/ Description of Work :** "Design, Development, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of fully functional Bio-toilet LAB including Lab Equipment, Consumables & Chemicals to carryout required Test (pH, COD & FCC) and Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Lab for 01 Year at Coaching Depot, Sealdah". **Tender Value :** ₹ 49,93,237.12 **Earnest Money :** ₹ 99,900.00. **Period of Contract :** 15 months. **Bidding Start Date :** 19.11.2025. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 03.12.2025 at 17.00 hrs. **Date and timing of tender Opening :** 03.12.2025 at 17.00 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from **www.ireps.gov.in** (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted.
SDAH-266/2025-26
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No:SWRSBCMEDLP/REPS2025 A Dated: 14-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Name of Work	Approximate Value	
Inviting open IREPS Tender for entering into Rate Contract with Firms/Distributors/Chemist shops for supply of all the types Medicines on Day Today basis for emergency local purchase to Medical stores of Railway Hospital, Bengaluru round the clock (24X7) for a period of Two years from the date of commencement of the service.	For Supply of Branded Medicines	**Rs. 1,14,84,846/-**
	For Supply of Janaushadhi Medicines	**Rs. 15,70,722/-**

Last date for submission of bid for tender is : **Upto 14:00 Hrs. on 12-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/662/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Chief Medical Superintendent, Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE EINGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, CHITRADURGA. Ph.: 08194-251811
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB2/SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION: 12/2025-26 Dt: 19.11.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.-3 & 4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Item rate tender in Two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (KW4) (Minimum amount put to Tender-Rs-79.83 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs-240.94 Lakhs) for the 50 works through KPPP-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from KPPP-Portal website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 19-11-2025 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tende27-11-2025 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 28-11-2025 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 29-11-2025 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 01-12-2025 after 10.30 A.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPPP portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPPP-Portal help desk No+91-8046010000+91-8068948777 & support@eprochelpdesk.com

RO No. 488: DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

E-Tender Notice No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-97-100-25, Dated: 19.11.2025. For and on behalf of the President of India, DRM (Engg)/South Eastern Railway, Adra invites 04 (four) nos. e-tenders for FOB, Transportation, Extension Line, Road and Misc works as mentioned hereunder: **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-97-25. Description of works:** Bankura– Replacement of existing FOB at Bankura. **Tender Value:** ₹ 7,40,31,969.28. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-98-25. Description of works:** (1) Road repair under North settlement at Adra, (2) Provision of Rest room for Operating task force in Adra Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,16,82,904.36. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-99-25. Description of works:** Transportation of P.Way materials by road from different places for track renewal works in Adra Division of South Eastern Railway for two years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,95,20,882.57. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-100-25. Description of works:** (1) Extension of line no. 4 towards RDF end at Bokaro Steel City Goods shed, (2) Extension of line no. 1 & 2 along with making line no. 1 as common loop at Burnpur, (3) Extension of UP and DN loop line at Chharra station in Adra Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,24,61,521.17. The closing date and time of e-tenders are on **18.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs.** (for Sl.No. 1 to 4 each). Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in.** **(PR-857)**

SHIVAMOGGA CITY CORPORATION, SHIVAMOGGA
PH No. 08182-2268512, Email : ka.shivamogga.cc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶಿಮನಪಾ/ಆ.ವಿ/ಇಆರ್/27/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders have been invited by the Commissioner, Shivamogga City Corporation for the purchase of mini excavator to be used for desilting drains and storm water drains in various wards and to assist in the maintenance of parks and UGD in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested to participate can submit the tender through e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sl No.	Details of works	Approx. amount (Rs in lakhs)	EMD amount Rs.	Head of Account
1.	Regarding purchasing of Mini Excavator machine for assisting cleaning works in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. (Indent No: DMA/2025-26/INDENT 5635)	**97.00**	**1,92,000**	**Corporation's general fund for the year 2025-26**

1) The starting date of downloading the tender documents:From **18.11.2025. 2)** Pre-bid meeting date: **27.11.2025 at 11.00 AM,** City Corporation, Shivamogga. **3)** The last date for submission of tender : **02.12.2025 upto 5.00 P M**. Tender conditions and more details can be had from Environment Engineer of Health Department during office hours. If there is any changes in scheduled date and conditions, it will be published in e-procurement portal only and no paper publication.

DIPR/SMG/No-75.11/ zenkar/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer City Corporation, Shivamogga**

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038. Telephone No: 91-80-25196100, 25196124
Fax: 080-25196110 e-mail: info@kuidfc.com Website: www.kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/UWM/TEND/2025-26/24/4075 Date: 19.11.2025

Tender Notification

KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT Environmental compensation fund and SBM (U) 2.0 fund for below mentioned project from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl GST) Rs. in Lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit Rs. in Lakhs
1	*"Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant in **Pandavapura Town"** under SBM (U)-2.0 Fund – **Call 3.***	**916.51**	**14.00**

1) Tender Publish Date: **20.11.2025.** 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **27.11.2025 Time: 11.30 AM.** 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **02.12.2025 Time: 5.30 PM.** 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **04.12.2025 Time: 11.00 AM.** 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **11.12.2025 Time: 11.00 AM.**
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3930/MAA/2025-26

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

ई–अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या :– 02/R1/2024-25/EE/RWD/LATEHAR दिनांक : 19.11.2025

क्र0	आईडेंटी फिकेशन सं0/पैकेज सं0	प्रखंड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि	टेंडर कॉल
1	RWD/LATEHAR/STPKG-01/2024-25	मनिका	L022 बंदुआ से बरवैया तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई – 8.10 कि0मी0)	1315.323	रू0 तेरह करोड़ पन्द्रह लाख बत्तीस हजार तीन सौ रूपये मात्र।	15 माह	द्वितीय
		मनिका	T01 सिंजो से सेरदाग तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई – 7.30 कि0मी0)				

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 24.11.2025
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 03.12.2025 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : 05.12.2025 अपराह्न 03:30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता, कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, लातेहार पिन – 829206।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0 – 06565245038

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

PR 366543 (REO) 25-26 (D)

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಬೀಜ ನಿಗಮ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್

(ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಾ ಉಪಕ್ರಮ – "ಮಿನಿರತ್ನ" ಕಂಪನಿ)

ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರೀಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560024. ದೂ.: 080–23415816.

No. : 4(18)MKTG/NSC-BNG/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–11–2025

ಬೀಜ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಬೀಜಗಳ ವಿತರಣೆ

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಬೀಜ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಡಲೆ ಬೀಜಗಳನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಲು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಬೀಜ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ರೈತರು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೆಳಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾದ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. **ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ವಿವರಗಳು : 1) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ – 99007 74234, 2) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ – 95405 34515, 3) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ಧಾರವಾಡ – 97438 15268, 4) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ಹಾವೇರಿ – 97434 35472, 5) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ಹಾಸನ – 95405 34515, 6) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ರಾಯಚೂರು – 91135 39806.**

ಸಹಿ/– ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/159/2025 Dated:14-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of Work	Approx. Value	Date of Closing
1	Providing Detailed Design Consultancy & Designer Association for Proposed Important Railway Bridge No.195 across Krishna River and other bridges for foundation, substructure & superstructure including Geotechnical/Hydrological investigation and other ancillary works from km 145950 to Km 149225 (3.275 km) in connection with Gadag - Wadi New BG Railway Line project & Proposed Tunnel from km 85125 to Km 86100 (approx. 975m) for conducting Geotechnical, Arial, Seismic Investigation and Detailed Design in connection with Belur - Hassan (Alur) New BG Railway Line project **(Tender Ref. No. : SWR-CN-DDC-DAS)**	Rs. 6,37,98,857/-	29-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
2	Request for Proposal for Appointment of Proof Check Consultant for Construction Organization in South Western Railway. **(Tender Ref. No. : PROOFCHECKCONSULTANCY)**	Rs. 11,36,29,457/-	29-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
3	Track linking works including yard remodelling, Earthwork in formation, blanketing, Supply of ballast, Transportation and supply of P-way material, Construction of minor bridges, Structural steel works & Electrification works in Chitradurga yard between Km:140/490 to Km:142/920 in Tumakuru-Chitradurga- Davangere new line project (Composite Work). **(Tender Ref. No. : TK-DVG-25)**	Rs. 51,78,60,236/-	09-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/660/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
No. 42, MCA House, Millers Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Phone: 080-22256288, E-mail:adminmca@mcaltd.in
website: www.mcaltd.karnataka.gov.in

No.: KSMCA/Admin/A.M./O.S./2025-26/Call-2 Date: 21.11.2025

SHORT-TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tender is invited through e-Procurement from eligible bidders for **providing Human Resource Services on Outsource Basis to KSMCA, H.O. and Branch Offices.** Tender Tenure: **2 Years.** Tender time schedule: **21.11.2025 to 29.11.2025** Last date for submission: **29.11.2025, 5.30 P.M. Date of opening the tender: 01.12.2025.** The complete details, terms and conditions can be downloaded from e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division

E-Tender Notice No. SA-TRD-2025-26-153 dated 18.11.2025

Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction and Distribution branch/ Salem Division, Salem -5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for works in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tender will be accepted. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature certificates for participating e-tendering.

Sl. No.	Tender No. Name of work	Appx. value of the work (₹ in lakh)	Cost of tender form ₹	Amount of EMD ₹	Completion period of work.
1	**SA-TRD-2025-26-153** Modification to OHE in connection with SAMT - Proposed Goods Yard remodeling work for direct Reception and Dispatch facility	88.93	0	177900	6 months

Sl.No.1: Tender closing date and time: 15.12.2025 at 14.30 Hrs.
Complete details of the above tenders are given on the e-portal "**www.ireps.gov.in**". For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal "**www.ireps.gov.in**". The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Dated: 18.11.2025 **Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Salem.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
NCC Directorate (NCC Cell)

No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No.JP/NCE/293/e-Tendering RDC/2026 Dated 20.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited for **Supply of Costumes, Accessories, Makeup Kits, Props and Other items required for NCC Cadets of Karnataka participating in Cultural Competitions during RDC 2026 through the KPPP Portal.**

Tender details are available on the website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp** from 20/11/2025, and the last date for submission of tenders through the **KPPP Portal** is 27/11/2025.

Tender No: NCC/2025-26/IND0010

DIPR/CP/3935/AKAR/2025-26 **Sd/- Mallinath, Administrative Officer for Deputy Director General NCC**

AIR FORCE SCHOOL ASTE

NAL Wind Tunnel Road, Murgeshpalya, Bengaluru – 560017

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Air Force School ASTE, invites tender for **Procurement of PA System** and **75" UHD Panels.**
Tender forms are available on www.afsaste.edu.in

Last date of submission : As per tender form.

For details contact **080-25272332/25276920**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CN/02/2025 Dated: 14-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: Tender Closing time : 10:30 Hrs.

Tender No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
95255248A	3 Core x 400 sq mm 6.35/11 KV Grade 90 Deg, C rating heavy duty power cable, Standard Aluminium Conductor Armoured XLPE insulated. Cable should be as per IS 7098 Part-II etc. **Qty:8900 mtrs.**	09-12-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/661/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Construction Bengaluru Cantonment

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Government of Karnataka
Youth Empowerment and Sports
Zilla Panchayat Vijayapur.
Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment & Sports,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, Vijayapur- 586101
Telephone: 08352-251085

No: A.D/YESO/VJP/TENDER/2025-26 Date: 18.11.2025

Short Term Re Tender

For the year 2025-26, from January 2026 to December 2026, e- tenders are invited through e-procurement portal from eligible suppliers in accordance with Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for supply of Meals to sports Persons of Sports Hostel of Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports. For more information www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in please contact office phone number: 08352-251085 or 7019008443

Last date Submission on Application: 25.11.2025
Technical bid Opening Date: 26.11.2025
Total Tender Amount Rs. : 78,73,125/-
E.M.D. Amount Rs.: 1,57,463/-

Sd/- Assistant Director Youth Empowerment & Sports , Vijayapura

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/474/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।

रामगढ़ थाना के सामने, थानाचौक/गांधीचौक, रामगढ़ कैन्ट, जिला–रामगढ़, झारखण्ड– 829122, ई-मेल–eercdramgarh-jhr@nic.in

" सूचना "

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि पथ प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़ अन्तर्गत एस०बी०डी० आधारित अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना का प्रसंग संख्या–RCD/RAMGARH/1064/2025-26 दिनांक–29.10.2025 का P.R. No.- 365006 Road (25-26)*D द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा में निम्न प्रकार से पुनः संशोधित किया जाता है:–

क्रमांक	विवरणी	पूर्व में आमंत्रित तिथि	संशोधन की तिथि
1.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	20.11.2025 10:30बजे पूर्वाह्न	25.11.2025 10:30बजे पूर्वाह्न
2.	ऑनविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	26.11.2025 12:00 बजे दिन तक	04.12.2025 12:00 बजे दिन तक

शेष यथावत रहेंगे। कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।

PR 366612 (Road) 25-26 (D)

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking an investigation of the title in relation to certain immovable properties more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter collectively referred to as '**Schedule Properties**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of entering into a joint development transaction in relation to the Schedule Properties. Mr. Suresha B.S. (son of late B.M. Subbanna) and Mr. Sanjay Suresha (son of Mr. Suresha B.S.) ('**Owners**') have represented to our Client that they own the lands comprised in the Schedule Properties in the manner detailed in the table hereinbelow and that they have unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of the industrial land having E-Khata No. 150300301700200254 (comprising Survey Nos. 111, 112, 113, 114) and Survey No. 60/9, all situated at Majara Hosahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and the lands bearing Survey Nos. 12/2, 13/1, 13/2, 13/3, all situated at Hosahudya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, detailed in the table hereinbelow:

Sl No.	Survey Number	Extent	Boundaries				Present Owner
			East	West	North	South	
1.	Ekhata No. 150300301700200254 (comprising Survey Nos. 111, 112, 113, 114, Majara Hosahalli Village)	28,327 Square meters (07 Acres)	Land bearing Survey No. 115, Majara Hosahalli Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 104 & 59, Majara Hosahalli Village	Road and Survey No. 58, Majara Hosahalli Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 12/2, 13/1, 13/2 & 13/3, Hosahudya Village	Mr. Suresha B.S. (son of late B.M. Subbanna)
2.	Survey No. 60/9 (Majara Hosahalli Village)	30 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 59 belonging to Mr. Venkataranamappa and Road;	Land bearing Survey No. 60/11 & Road	Road	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 12/1 and 12/2, Hosahudya Village	Mr. Sanjay Suresha (son of Mr. Suresha B.S.)
3.	Survey No. 12/2 (Hosahudya Village)	04 Acres 35 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 13/1, Hosahudya Village	Land bearing Survey No. 12/1, Hosahudya Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 59, 60/9, Majara Hosahalli Village & Road	Land bearing Survey No. 11, Hosahudya Village	
4.	Survey No. 13/1 (Hosahudya Village)	01 Acre 07 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 13/2, Hosahudya Village	Land bearing Survey No. 12/2, Hosahudya Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 111, 112 & 113, Majara Hosahalli Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 14/3 and 14/4, Hosahudya Village	
5.	Survey No. 13/2 (Hosahudya Village)	01 Acre 30 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 13/3, Hosahudya Village	Land bearing Survey No. 13/1, Hosahudya Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 113 & 114, Majara Hosahalli Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 14/3, and 14/1, Hosahudya Village	
6.	Survey No. 13/3 (Hosahudya Village)	08 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 13/4, Hosahudya Village	Land bearing Survey No. 13/2, Hosahudya Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 114 & 115, Majara Hosahalli Village	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 14/1 & 14/2, Hosahudya Village	
	Total Extent	**15 Acres 30 Guntas**					

Sd/-
Mr. SRINIVAS B.R., Partner ,
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7,
Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770

Date : 21.11.2025
Place : Bengaluru

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092

No. BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/03/2025-26 Date : 19-11-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Short Term Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC invites tender on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC, Bengaluru from eligible registered agencies in any State Govt. Organization for providing services mentioned in the Table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Towing vehicle complete on hire basis (Including vehicle, fuel, driver and maintenance of vehicle) for Bengaluru North City Corporation. **EMD :** Rs. 36,500/- **Amount put to tender :** Rs. 14.52 Lakhs.

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under login for Contractor. **(2)** Last date & time for Queries (only through online) : **29-11-2025 upto 4.00 PM. (3)** Date and time of pre-bid meeting : **29-11-2025 upto 3.00 PM. (4)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **06-12-2025 upto 4:00 PM. (5)** Opening of Technical bid : **On 08-12-2025 at 11:00 AM** if possible or next working day. **(6)** Opening of Financial bid (If Possible) : On **09-12-2025 at 4:00 PM** if possible.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಧನ್ವಂತರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನಂದ್‌ರಾವ್ ವೃತ್ತದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–29608986, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dao.bangalore09@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಯುಷ್/ಜಿಆಕ/ಬೆಂ.ನ/27/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–11–2025

PAPER NOTIFICATION

For the Year 2025-26 Short Term E-Tenders have been invited online from eligible individuals/organizations registered under various acts and laws to procure staff services through external resources for the vacant posts of 10 Group-D Employees.

E-Procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) can be downloaded from 20.11.2025 Last date: 26.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

For more information regarding this E-procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) contact District Ayush Office, Commissionerate office, 2nd floor, Dhanwanthri Road, Bangalore during office hours.

Sd/- District Ayush Officer, Bangalore Urban Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/SPAN/3927/2025-26

Office of The City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

No.: CCC.ADM-II.45/2025/Furniture Articles/2025-26 Date: 12.11.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The City Civil Court, Bengaluru invites e-bidding proposals (quotations) through the e-procurement website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live)** from interested local furniture supply vendors (having business office in Bengaluru city only) for the supply of furniture articles for the following service contract.

Tender No.: **ADM-II.45/2025 (Furniture)** Dated: **13.11.2025** Tender No. (as issued by KPPP): **HCK/2025-26/IND0064 Dated: 12.11.2025** Tender Name/Services sought for: **Procurement of furniture articles - Almirah and Slotted Angle Rack, tentatively 100 Nos. each, and Computer Table, Computer Chair and Superintendent Table, 20 Nos. each. This Office may place orders for requisite items as and when necessary.** Tender Contract Period: One-time purchase or phased purchases till the conclusion of the financial year 2025-26. Estimated Approx. Total Tender Amount: **Rs. 26,37,300/-.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 26,373/-** (1% of the estimated cost). Last date for clarification: **09.12.2025 at 12.30 PM.** Last date and time for submission of tender proposal: **18.12.2025 at 3.00 PM.** Date and time of opening of tender: Technical Bid - **19.12.2025 at 03.01 PM** (Financial Bid - upon approval of Technical Bid). Pre-bid meeting date: **09.12.2025 at 12.30 PM** (at the above office). For further details: Tel: 080-22939220 / Email: cccadm2@gmail.com

Sd/- Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DD-C.P/3895/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE(PROC)-3/AEE5/ 2025-26/4380-397 Date:19.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work

1) KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT 3012

a) Strengthening of existing 66kV Gowribidanur- D'Cross-1 SC line with Patridge conductor on existing lattice narrow based fabricated ungalvanised towers by SC line with Drake conductor on 110kV DC narrow based towers in the existing corridor from 220/66/11kV Gowribidanur sub-station to 66/11kV D Cross sub-station for a distance of 36.258kms in Gowribidnur Taluk and Doddaballapur Taluk.

b) Strengthening of existing 66kV LILO line of 66/11kV Gundamgere S/s by replacing existing COYOTE conductor by HPC conductor from Gundamgere LILO point to 66/11kV Gundamgere S/s for a distance of 9.355kms along with replacement of 66kV line CTs at 66/11kV Gundamgere S/s. in Doddaballapur Taluk.

c) Making LILO arrangement to the existing 66/11 kV Manchenahalli sub-station by stringing second circuit line with HPC conductor & replacing existing SC line with Coyote conductor by HPC conductor from Manchenahalli tapping point to 66/11kV Manchenahalli sub-station on the existing 66kV Manchenahalli tap line for a distance of 9.757kms along with construction of 66kV TB and replacement of existing 66kV line CTs at 66/11kV Manchenahalli sub-station in Manchenahalli Taluk., on Total Turnkey basis including Supply of all Materials/ equipments, Mandatory Spares, Erection (Including Civil Works) of all materials/equipments, Testing and Commissioning and buy back of released materials from existing line.

Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **26.12.2025 @ 15:00hrs**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 27.11.2025. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech)., Corporate Office, KPTCL, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009.

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bangalore – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586402 Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No: KSIC/IA/AAO/02/2025-26 Date: 18-11-2025

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)

Re-Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from reputed persons/firms from the Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant firms/ Companies for Expression of Interest for the appointment of Internal Auditor for the auditing of Head Office, Units and showrooms for the period **from 01.01.2026 to 31.03.2028** as grouped in Annexure-'A' in the tender document.

Tender Documents, Details of the Notification, schedule, terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ Pre-bid meeting to be held **on 25.11.2025 at 12.30 PM** and Last date and time for uploading the tender with EMD of **Rs.20,000/-** through KPP is **on 05.12.2025 upto 3.00 PM.** The Technical bids will be opened on **06.12.2025 at 03.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours either personally or on Cell No.9900503010 or KPP helpdesk:- 080-46010000 and 080-22631200.

Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (F&A)

DIPR/CP/3896/MAA/2025-26

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha

(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., KCD Division, T. Narasipura, Mysuru District - 571124
Ph.No. 08227-261362 E-Mail eekcdtnp@yahoo.co.in

Short Term Tender Notification No. 14/2025-26, dated: 17-11-2025

Itemwise tenders are invited in KPP-Portal by the Executive Engineer, Kabini Canal Distributory Division, T. Narasipura, Mysuru District on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore from eligible PWD Department registered contractors for 2 Works. All the required documents are to be uploaded along with the tenders. Minimum amount put to tender for the work is Rs 8.42 Lakhs & Maximum amount put to tender for the work is Rs 62.68 Lakhs. Last date for tender queries / clarification is **24.11.2025** till 4.00 p.m., last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **25.11.2025** till 5.30 p.m. Date of opening of technical bids is **27.11.2025** at 11.00 a.m. Date of opening of Financial bids is **01.12.2025** at 11.00 a.m. For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through kpp-portal by logging in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL., KCD Division, T. Narasipura.

DIPR/DDMYS/1248/KSMCA/694/2025-26

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY

Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru- 560 056, Ph: 080-23213023

No. Aca III/Ren/2026-27 18th November, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT

Bangalore University invites applications for various types of affiliation as prescribed in Sections 59 and 62 of the KSU Act, 2000, from the affiliated Colleges/ Managerents situated in the Bangalore University jurisdiction as specified in the Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Act, 2015 i.e., Karnataka Legislative Assembly constituencies of Vijayanagara, Padmanabhanagar, Bommanahalli, Anekal, Bangalore South, Yeshwanthapura, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Dasarahalli, Mahalaxmi Layout, Govindarajnagar of Bangalore District, Nelamangala of Bengaluru Rural District, Magadi, Ramanagara, Kanakapura and Channapatna of Ramanagara District for the academic year 2026-27 vide notification No. Aca-III/Ren/2026-27, dated: 18th November, 2025. The notification is available in the University Website **www.bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in.**

Colleges/Managements are informed to submit the application through online affiliation of the State Government Website **https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in.**

Last date for submission o f filled-in application of Rs. 2200/- is 07.12.2025 without fine & 10.12.2025 with a fine of Rs.1,000/-.

Additional information, if any may be obtained from the Academic Section-III, Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru-560 056 **(Contact No: 8618709950/9611792343).**

Sd/- Registrar

DIPR/CP/3944/AKAR/2025-26 **Date: 20-11-2025**

Water Resource Department
(Minor Irrigation)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Admin Block, NH-75 Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Narsapura-563133, Kolar taluk & District.
E-Mail: eemidklr@rediffmail.com, eemigwddkolar@gmail.com,
Landline No: 08152-200049

No:EE/MI/Kol/TA/AE/Tender Notification/1770/2025-26/ Dtd:18.11.2025

Short term tender notification no: 17/2025-26/ Dtd: 18.11.2025

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kolar has invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Procurement for the work in two cover system. The tender procedure as per Rule of KTPP Act and standard tender, HOA 2702 Tanks Repairs & Maintenance document KW-4 shall be followed. Scheduled EMD amount to be submitted through KPP-Portal and tender processing fees as per KPP-Portal procedure. Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** starts from **Dt:19.11.2025 04:30 PM**. Last date of uploading tender documents upto **Dt:09.12.2025 04:30 PM. Pre bid meeting Date:26.11.2025 @11:30 AM at Office of the Superintending Engineer, MI & GWD Circle, Jayanagar Commercial Complex, 4th Block, 3rd Floor, Bengaluru-560011.** Opening of technical bid **Dt:10.12.2025 @ 04:30 PM.** The Executive Engineer reserves the right to make any changes in above details in future if needed. For more details to be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days during office hours and also through website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water, Development Division, Kolar.

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:362/KSMCA/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. 26/SBC/25 Dated: 07.11.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Hindupur section:** Pway maintenance contract for two years 2025-2027 in Sr. Sectional Engineer/P.Way/Hindupur (HUP) section, under Sr. Divisional Engineer/North/Bengaluru jurisdiction.	Rs. 4,95,99,170/-
2	**Tumakuru (East) section:** Pway maintenance contract for two years 2025-2027 in Sr. Sectional Engineer/P.Way/Tumakuru (East) (Tumakuru-East) section, under Sr. Divisional Engineer/North/Bengaluru jurisdiction.	Rs. 4,05,38,165/-
3	**Tumakuru (West) section:** Pway maintenance contract for two years 2025-2027 in Sr. Sectional Engineer/P.Way/Tumakuru (W) (Tumakuru-West) section, under Sr. Divisional Engineer/North/Bengaluru jurisdiction.	Rs. 4,06,77,837/-
4	**Sr. Divisional Engineer/North/Bengaluru Section: Sub Work-1:** Kyatsandra (KIAT) Proposed extension of High level Platform of PF No.1, by 147m on Tumakuru (TK) end, 43m on KSR Bengaluru (SBC) end in Asst. Divisional Engineer/Yesvantpur sub-division, including electrical portion. **Sub Work-2:** Proposed construction of FOB (Foot over Bridge) at Kyatsandra (KIAT) for pedestrian movement at km 64/100-200. **Sub Work-3:**Proposed construction of lift at PF No. 1 and 2 connecting gangway of new FOB at Kyatsandra (KIAT) station in Asst. Divisional Engineer/Yesvantpur sub-division. (Composite work & tender). Maintenance period is 12 months.	Rs. 4,76,83,854/-
5	**Sr. Divsional Engineer/North/Bengaluru Section: Yesvantpur - Kodigehalli Section:** Proposed pedestrian subway at km 13/200-300 near Sahakar nagar, NTI Layout with steps, Size: 1 x 4.00m x 2.25m, RCC box. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon.	Rs. 2,01,08,666/-
6	**Yesvantpur Section:** Operation and daily maintenance of existing water recycling plant (400 KLD) for a period of two years (Water required for coach cleaning, PF Cleaning and apron washing).	Rs. 51,26,800/-
7	**Divisional Engineer/South/Benglauru Section: Chikbanavar - Hassan (BAW-HAS) Section:** Provision of standard height gauges for 12 RUBs (RUB Nos. 3, 6,12, 13, 18, 21, 25, 28, 39, 44, 46 and 57) between Yesvantpur (YPR) - Solur (SOLR) in Asst. Divisional Engineer/Kunigal sub-division. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon.	Rs. 1,69,80,035/-
8	**Asst. Divisional Engineer/Bridges Section:** Repairs to bearings for ROB No. 198 at km. 64/900-65/000 in Chikbanavar - Hassan (BAW-HAS) section, ROB No. 591B at km 0/500-600 between stations Chikbanavar - Lottegollahalli (BAW-LOGH) in Yesvantpur (YPR) bypass line, ROB No. 822C at km. 333/000-100 in Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Jn. (SBC-JTJ) section, Bridge No. 247 at km. 80/500-600. Bridge No. 381 at km. 123/400-500 in Chikbanavar - Hassan (BAW-HAS) section. Bridge No. PD-84 at km. 27/900-28/000 in Penukonda - Dharmavaram (PKD-DMM) section. Maintenance period is 03 months.	Rs. 35,90,186/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 03.12.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/652/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/ Bengaluru

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US clears $93-mn deal for anti-tank missiles, Excalibur rounds to India

Move comes ahead of the scheduled visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to India

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the contentious tariff talks, the USA has cleared the sale of Excalibur artillery ammunition and Javelin anti-tank missiles to India in an over $ 92 million (nearly Rs 823 crore) government-to-government deal.

The approvals by the Donald Trump administration to sell 216 Excalibur "tactical projectiles" and associated systems, as well as 100 Javelin anti-tank missiles, have been notified to the US Congress by the Defence Security Cooperation Agency.

Significantly, the deal materialised weeks before the scheduled India visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin for the annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Also last month, the USA renewed its 10-year defence cooperation agreement with India further elevating the level of military partnership between Delhi and Washington.

In a November 19 statement, the DSCA said the proposed sale of Excalibur at a cost of $47.1 million would improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by providing precision capability equipment, which will increase first strike accuracy in its brigades, but will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The ammunition is used in 155 mm artillery guns like ultra light weight M777 howitzers, and can also be used in the home-grown K9 Vajra and Dhanush guns.

During Operation Sindoor, M777 was one of the Indian Army weapons used to decimate seven of the nine terror targets located close to the Line of Control. The new lot of ammunition may replenish the stock exhausted during the conflict.

In a second statement, the DSCA said the proposed sale of Javelin missiles at a cost of $ 45.7 million would support the US foreign policy and national security objectives, strengthening the US-Indian strategic relationship and improve the security of a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions.

"The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats, strengthen its homeland defence and deter regional threats," it adds.

In addition to the missile, the Javelin deal also includes command units, launch units, batteries and other associated systems.

RCom case: ED attaches assets worth Rs 1,452 crore

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached properties worth Rs 1,452 crore linked to Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani in connection with a case involving Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom).

"The ED STF, headquarters has provisionally attached multiple buildings in Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City and Millenium Business Park, Navi Mumbai, as well as plots of land and buildings in Pune, Chennai, and Bhubaneswar, cumulatively worth Rs 1452.51 crore under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)," the ED said in a statement.

ED had earlier attached properties worth over Rs 7,545 crore in the bank fraud cases of Rcom, Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd, and Reliance Home Finance Ltd.

ED initiated the investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI against RCOM, Anil Ambani, and others.

Rcom and its group companies availed loans from domestic and foreign lenders from the period of 2010-2012 onwards, of which a total amount of Rs 40,185 crore is outstanding.

Nine banks have declared the loan accounts of the group as fraud.

Governor gives nod for KTR's prosecution in Formula E case

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Verma on Thursday granted consent to the state Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to prosecute BRS working president and legislator K T Rama Rao in the alleged irregularities surrounding the Formula E race project.

KT Rama Rao

The case pertains to alleged unauthorised payments of about Rs 55 crore, much of it in foreign currency, during the previous BRS regime for an event planned in February 2024 but cancelled after the Congress government assumed office in December 2023.

After a nine-month investigation, the ACB wrote to the Governor on September 9 seeking permission to prosecute the former minister.

The agency is also awaiting clearance from the Department of Personnel and Training to proceed against senior IAS officer and then-Municipal Administration and Urban Development secretary Arvind Kumar, another accused in the case.

Once the approval is obtained, a chargesheet will be filed against KTR, Arvind Kumar, and former Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority chief engineer BLN Reddy, who is also accused in the case.

Officials said the ACB has questioned KTR and Arvind Kumar, collecting key documents, emails, and digital records allegedly linking the BRS leader to the financial transactions.

Sources also said the probe agency traced evidence suggesting that Formula E sponsors contributed nearly Rs 40 crore to the BRS through electoral bonds in a quid-pro-quo arrangement.

Former temple board chief held in Sabarimala gold heist; ruling CPM in tight spot

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) former president and CPM ex-MLA A Padmakumar has reportedly been arrested in connection with the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold heist.

According to sources, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) summoned Padmakumar for questioning on Thursday before taking him into custody. He was serving as a district secretariat member of the CPM in Pathanamthitta.

The action follows the arrest of several other former TDB officials, including ex-president and commissioner N Vasu, former administrative officer Murari Babu, former executive officer Sudheesh Kumar, former 'thiruvabharanam' commissioner KS Baiju and Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potti.

Padmakumar and Vasu are under the scanner for their role in the gold heist. The duo approved gold coating of the temple's door frames and Dwarapalaka idols by citing them as copper, even though the same work had already been completed in 1998-99 with sponsorship from industrialist Vijay Mallya.

Their alleged involvement has put the ruling CPM in Kerala in a tight spot, given their party links. Padmakumar is a former party MLA, while Vasu had earlier served on the personal staff of a CPM minister.

The SIT suspects that nearly two kilograms of gold used to cover the idols and door frames of the temple — originally sponsored by Mallya — were siphoned off by Unnikrishnan Potti with the connivance of then TDB officials.

The SIT has launched scientific tests on the gold-plating carried out under Potti's sponsorship to verify both the quality and quantity of the metal used.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Congress and the BJP have alleged that the CPM's involvement in the case is becoming more evident.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

DID YOU WANT TO COME DOWN AND EAT YOUR PANCAKES WHILE THEY'RE STILL HOT, HONEY?
I'M STILL SHAVING...CAN YOU BRING 'EM UP HERE?
YOU KNOW, PANCAKES WITH MINTY SHAVING CREAM AREN'T HALF BAD

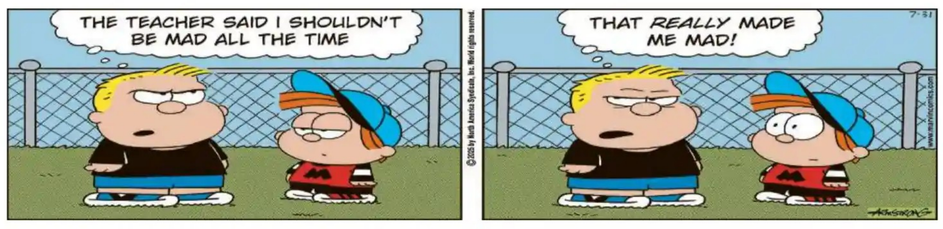
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

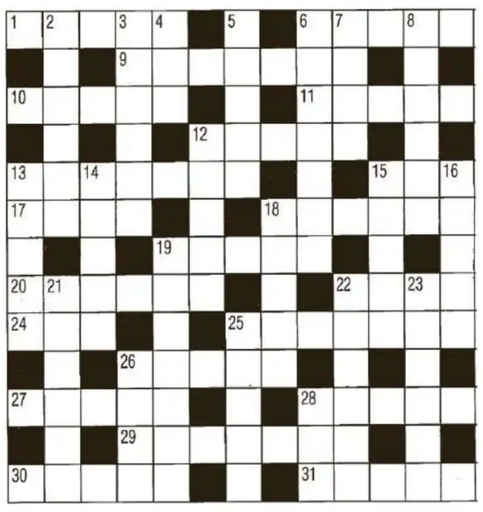
Peanuts

WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU HAD YOUR USUAL MISERABLE TIME AT CAMP.. DID YOU HATE IT?
UNFORTUNATELY, NO! I MET A NEW GIRL THERE NAMED EUDORA
I HAD TO KEEP CONVINCING HER THAT CAMP WAS FUN...
MY MISERABLE TIME WAS RUINED!!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12293



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Quiet game of cards (5)
6 Does it give one a taste for girls? (5)
9 Rod's dog? (7)
10 Very displeased with a no-good railway (5)
11 Social group in Doncaster (5)
12 Lacking polish, being out of practice (5)
13 Can be spent going north from the Pennines (7)
15 Silent woman (3)
17 Prepare for the turn of the tide (4)
18 Find modern accommodation for an officer (6)
19 Snob I upset, the beast! (5)
20 Belief in direct treatment (6)
22 Pet name I had in the Foreign Office (4)
24 Needs to be in phase (3)
25 Variety of capelin that eats fish (7)
26 Clean some tennis courts (5)
27 Poky, but nice (5)
28 Quietly yearn for somewhere to play (5)
29 Music's good, but the atmosphere's stifling and one misses the ball! (3,4)
30 Pumping centre (5)
31 Masonic drink? (5)

DOWN
2 Pursued by that old barbarian Edward (6)
3 Rush to arrange trips around the 3rd of June (6)
4 Is an action man such a boy? (3)
5 The Scot sang wildly outside the youth centre (5)
6 Cut it up in less than a second (7)
7 Be devout, please (4)
8 Discontinue with a safety device (3,3)
12 Pay for damaging a mitre (5)
13 Nice fruit at a penny a time (5)
14 Figures to reform most sinners (5)
15 Super soldier in a raincoat (5)
16 Fruit a camel once swallowed? (5)
18 Showing insufficient resolve, possibly, he was beaten (5)
19 It may be a cracker (7)
21 Some grapes on the vine in a valley (6)
22 Limited indefinitely? (6)
23 Performer or doctor holding a broken cane (6)
25 Cash prize that's in the bag? (5)
26 Rosa's wrong to be a high-flier (4)
28 The sound of music (3)

ACROSS
1 Unit of gem weight (5)
6 Military clergyman (5)
9 Percussionist (7)
10 Now (5)
11 Respond (5)
12 Italian city (5)
13 Track support (7)
15 Marry (3)
17 Throws (4)
18 Scold (6)
19 Avarice (5)
20 Of the mind (6)
22 Aspiration (4)
24 Snoop (3)
25 Coach (7)
26 Heaps (5)
27 Backless chair (5)
28 Skilful (5)
29 Return (7)
30 Sharp (5)
31 Coarse (5)

DOWN
2 Greek god (6)
3 Proverbs (6)
4 Attempt (3)
5 Bedaub (5)
6 Scanned (7)
7 Region (4)
8 Bat (6)
12 Gemstone (5)
13 Decline (5)
14 Wood (5)
15 Carriage (5)
16 Dissuade (5)
18 Endures (5)
19 Biblical sea (7)
21 Sensual (6)
22 Prevent (6)
23 Looked furtively (6)
25 Fraction (5)
26 Harbour (4)
28 Curve (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12292

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, S-trip-E 7, Pen-chant 8, Afraid 10, Ar-Ray 13, Brae 14, Rues 15, Toes 16, (K)New 17, S-h-ot 19, Tout 21, Heartfelt 23, Guts 24, Lord 26, Fat 27, Tree 29, Ewes 32, Peas 33, Grip-e 34, Chains 35, Peter out 36, Brakes.
DOWN: 1, S-pear 2, In-Ure 3, Wh-E-y 4, Stare 5, RA-RE 6, Pri-V-et 9, F-aster 11, Rum 12, As-set 13, Bo-TT-les 15, Tor 16, Nut 18, Hasten 20, Older 21, Hut 22, Fo-e 23, Gather 25, Rep 28, Rasps 30, W-I'd-ow 31, Seats 32, Pick 33, Goes.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Karate 7, Innuendo 8, Amount 10, Irish 13, Slam 14, Deep 15, Near 16, Cub 17, Rain 19, Oboe 21, Fall about 23, Yeti 24, Tiny 26, Raw 27, Spot 29, Epic 32, Pour 33, Prime 34, Chains 35, Homeless 36, Osprey.
DOWN: 1, Rigid 2, Untie 3, Mesh 4, Koala 5, Room 6, Tongue 9, Maroon 11, Rep 12, Sprat 13, Senator 15, Nil 16, Cot 18, Alison 20, Buyer 21, Few 22, Bit 23, Yachts 25, Him 28, Pushy 30, Piles 31, Cease 32, Pier 33, Plea.

◆SU-DO-KU-6757◆

		3			7	1	8	
				9				6
		8		3				7
	3		9		6			
	9		2	8	3		5	
			1		5		6	
6				2		7		
5				1				
	8	9	7			2		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6756

1	4	7	6	8	3	2	5	9
3	9	5	7	1	2	4	8	6
2	8	6	9	5	4	1	3	7
9	5	3	8	6	1	7	2	4
6	7	4	3	2	9	5	1	8
8	2	1	4	7	5	9	6	3
7	3	2	1	4	8	6	9	5
5	6	9	2	3	7	8	4	1
4	1	8	5	9	6	3	7	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

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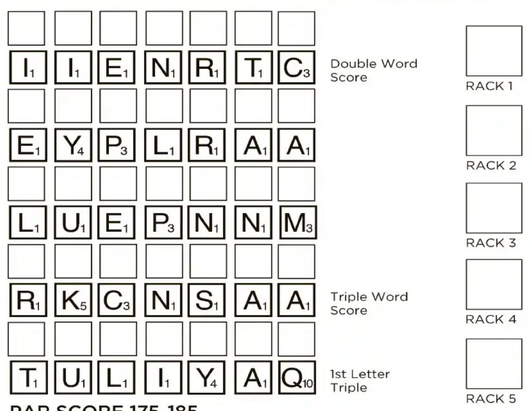

I1 I1 E1 N1 R1 T1 C3
E1 Y4 P3 L1 R1 A1 A1
L1 U1 E1 P3 N1 N1 M3
R1 K5 C3 N1 S1 A1 A1
T1 U1 L1 I1 Y4 A1 Q10
Double Word Score
Triple Word Score
1st Letter Triple
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4
RACK 5

PAR SCORE 175-185
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

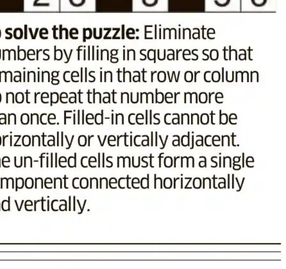
M3 A1 S1 O1 N1 R1 Y4	RACK 1 =	74
O1 F4 F4 E1 R1 S1	RACK 2 =	12
D2 R1 A1 F4 T1 E1 E1	RACK 3 =	69
F4 O1 N1 D2 U1 E1 S1	RACK 4 =	61
PAR SCORE 140-150	JUDD'S TOTAL	216

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LRYOG
NIHKT
LIASRO
NCYAON


Let me see if there's something we would like on.
I'm fully capable of finding something for us to watch.
5/13
WHEN IT CAME TO THE TV REMOTE, HIS WIFE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GROOM FLASH SPOTTY HANDLE
Answer: What kind of dog loves to take a bath? — A "SHAMPOODLE"

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HITORI-3211

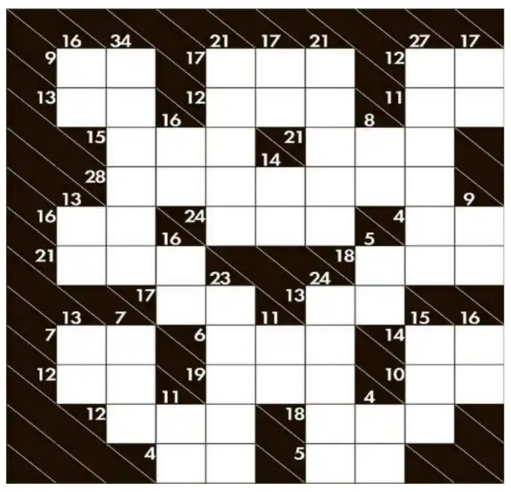
4	4	3	2	1	7	7	3
4	4	5	6	5	7	2	8
7	6	5	8	3	1	4	1
8	2	6	1	5	4	5	3
7	1	2	7	5	5	8	4
2	7	5	4	6	1	5	1
7	3	7	7	4	2	1	6
6	8	5	3	2	1	5	7

SOLUTION TO 3210

7	1	8	■	2	■	3	4
3	■	2	7	5	6	■	8
■	8	■	1	■	5	4	7
8	7	5	■	4	3	■	2
■	6	4	8	3	■	2	5
2	4	■	6	■	7	■	1
6	■	7	3	1	4	8	■
■	2	3	■	8	■	5	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

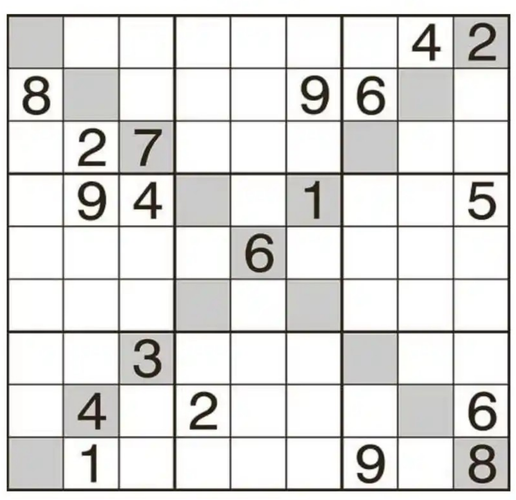
KAKURO- 3211



SOLUTION TO 3210

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3742



SOLUTION TO 3741

3	8	6	2	1	4	7	9	5
1	9	5	7	6	8	2	4	3
7	4	2	5	9	3	1	8	6
9	5	3	8	2	6	4	7	1
8	1	4	3	7	5	6	2	9
6	2	7	9	4	1	3	5	8
4	7	8	6	3	9	5	1	2
5	3	1	4	8	2	9	6	7
2	6	9	1	5	7	8	3	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Markets surge for 2nd day on fund inflows

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark Sensex climbed 446 points, while Nifty closed above the 26,100 level on Thursday, extending their gains for the second consecutive day on buying in oil & gas and select financial shares and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 446.21 points or 0.52%, to settle at 85,632.68. During the day, it surged 615.23 points or 0.72%, to hit a 52-week high of 85,801.70.

The 50-share NSE Nifty also hit its 52-week high of 26,246.65 during the day, before closing at 26,192.15, reflecting gains of 139.50 points or 0.54% over the previous close.

A rally in global peers helped indices scale their year-high levels intra-day, analysts said.

TCS plans Rs 18k cr data centre

TPG to pump around Rs 8.9k cr, hold 27.5-49%

MUMBAI, PTI

The country's largest IT services company TCS on Thursday announced a tie-up with private equity major TPG for its upcoming data centre business, in which both the partners aim to invest Rs 18,000 crore.

TPG will invest $1 billion or around Rs 8,870 crore in the AI data centre business christened as 'Hypervault', and hold a stake 27.5-49% in the venture.

"Bringing in TPG as a strategic investment partner will help TCS drive stronger returns to its shareholders, reduce its capital outlay, and create long-term value for the data centre platform," a statement said.

TCS had last month announced its entry into the data centre play, and plans to invest up to $6.5 billion to create over 1GW of capacity.

"I am delighted to have TPG join us in our journey to build large GW-scale AI data centres in India, tapping the rapidly growing AI demand. It will further strengthen our partnership with hyperscalers and AI companies," Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said.

He added that with this capability, TCS is uniquely positioned to deliver complete AI solutions for its customers and partners. "Data centres are a multifaceted asset class and sit at the intersection of green energy infrastructure, technology and real estate," Jim Coulter, Executive Chairman of TPG and a managing partner of TPG Rise Climate, said.

TPG's investment in HyperVault is being facilitated through TPG Rise Climate and its Global South Initiative, a private equity strategy launched in partnership with ALTERRA, the statement added.

The firm is also partnering through its Asia Real Estate business, marking an important milestone for the platform in India, it added.

AI-data centres play a crucial role by providing the necessary infrastructure to hyperscalers, AI companies, private enterprises and the public sector, for hosting their compute hardware, high-speed storage, and low-latency networks needed to run real-time, large-scale AI models and applications across industries, the statement explained.

At present, the overall capacity in India stands at 1.5 GW, which is expected to surge to 10 GW by 2030, and the data-centres market has attracted investments of over $94 billion till now, it said.

BREAKING DOWN DATA

TCS names data centre business as 'Hypervault' | Data centre capacity in India stands at 1.5 GW currently

Rs 18,000 cr Both TCS, and TPG to invest for data centre biz

Rs 8,870 cr TPG will invest; hold 27.5-49% stake

TPG aims to invest $6.5 billion to create 1 GW data centre capacity

"I am delighted to have TPG join us in our journey to build large GW-scale AI data centres in India, tapping the rapidly growing AI demand. It will further strengthen our partnership with hyperscalers and AI companies."
N CHANDRASEKARAN
Chairman, Tata Sons

Zepto moved to B'luru for its talent, says co-founder

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

It's been a year since the fastest-growing quick commerce platform Zepto moved its headquarters from Mumbai to Bengaluru, and 23-year-old co-founder Kaivalya Vohra said there is no other city with such a talent base as the Karnataka capital.

During a fireside chat with entrepreneur and content creator Ankur Warikoo, Vohra said he has been living in the city for four years now. "The other co-founder Aadit Palicha and some team members were in Mumbai, but now everyone has moved to Bengaluru," he said, at the Future Makers Conclave held as part of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 on Thursday.

Speaking about Zepto's early days, the co-founder said they had made a lot of mistakes along the way, in terms of both business and talent. "Every day, you wake up and it's like someone is punching on your face and you need to put out some new fires," he said, adding that they are now more resilient and have learnt to show up the next day, no matter what would have happened the previous day.

Both the founders started Zepto in 2021. "Before founding Zepto, we were playing with many ideas in the grocery delivery—45 minutes to 60 minutes. Also, a very small percentage of our users lived close to the stores that they were ordering from, and we picked and dropped from supermarkets. We converted one of the stores into a mini dark store and made the radius of delivery as 1 km," he said.

Both the founders spent a couple of days in stores and as soon as orders arrived, they picked items up in 60 seconds and made door deliveries within 10 minutes to see customers' reaction. From hiring delivery partners to launching dark stores (mini-warehouses), Vohra shared the startup's journey.

Warikoo said the next 10-20 years are going to be a golden period for startups and that founders should not hesitate to seek help from others.

'AI must be inclusive and accessible to all'

AI must be inclusive and accessible to all, said Kirthiga Reddy, Chief Executive Officer of Verix & OptimizeGEO, at a session here on Thursday. She urged leaders to integrate AI across every stage of work and decision-making. She encouraged women to set bold visions and work relentlessly towards them.

MB Patil to visit London from November 24

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil said on Thursday that he will visit London with a high-level delegation from November 24 to 26 to attract investments from UK-based companies.

He held discussions with Seema Malhotra, the UK Minister for Commonwealth Affairs and Development, and Linda Cameron, the British High Commissioner to India, who met him in Bengaluru.

Speaking on the occasion, Patil said the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between India and the United Kingdom earlier this year has created a favourable environment for investment. During his London visit, the delegation will meet the heads of major companies such as Element-6, ARM, Linde, Martin-Baker, Fido AI, Oxford Space Systems, Green Jets, Nanopore Tech, Group Rhodes, The Senator Group, The Latos Group, Samco Holdings and others.

Officials from the UK informed the Minister that The King's School, Canterbury—one of Britain's oldest educational institutions—will open its Bengaluru campus from the 2026 academic year.

Core infra output stagnates; worst performance in 14 months

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The core infrastructure sector recorded its worst performance in 14 months in October, with flat overall production dragged by a sharp drop in output of electricity, coal, natural gas, and crude oil, official data showed on Thursday.

Output of the key infrastructure sector, as measured by the Index of Eight Core Industries, had recorded a growth of 3.3% in September. Cumulative growth during the April-October period of the current fiscal stood at 2.5%, when compared with the same period last year.

Coal and electricity were among the major drags in October. Electricity production in October was 7.6% lower from the same month last year, while coal output dipped 8.5%. Production of natural gas declined by 5% year-on-year, while crude oil output fell by 1.2%.

However, fertiliser, steel, cement and petroleum refinery recorded positive growth in production during the month under review.

According to analysts, coal and power production were impacted in October due to excess rainfall. "Excess rainfall impacted mining activity and power demand in October, with coal output and electricity generation contracting by a sharp 8.5% and 7.6%, respectively, in the month," said ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar.

Moreover, the growth in steel output decelerated to a six-month low of 6.7% from double-digits in the previous month, albeit partly on account of an adverse base, with an early onset of the festive season in 2025, she added.

Cumulative increase in steel production during April-October period stood at 10.3% year-on-year. Cement output in April-October 2025 was 7.3% higher, when compared with the corresponding period of last year, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed. In October, cement output was 5.3% higher, when compared with the same month last year.

The eight core industries that include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in Index of Industrial Production.

Given the deterioration in the performance of the mining and electricity segments, ICRA expects IIP growth to decline in the range of 2.5-3.5% in October, from 4% in September.

RBI doesn't target any level of rupee, says Guv

Remains confident of favourable trade deal between India, United States

NEW DELHI, PTI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday said the central bank does not target any level for the rupee, and the recent depreciation of the domestic currency against the US dollar is primarily due to trade uncertainties following the imposition of tariffs by the Trump administration.

The governor also exuded confidence that India will secure a favourable trade deal with the US, which will help ease the pressure on the current account.

"We do not target any level. Why is the rupee depreciating? (It) is because of the demand. It is for the markets to decide... It is a financial instrument, and there is a demand for dollars, and if the demand for dollars goes up, the rupee depreciates; and if the demand for the rupee goes up, the dollar comes down, then it appreciates," he said, while interacting with the students after delivering the VKRV Rao Memorial Lecture at the Delhi School of Economics here.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra. PTI

Elaborating further, Malhotra said the recent depreciation in the rupee against the US dollar is due to the trade side effect after the imposition of a steep 50% US tariffs on Indian exports.

He said exports and FIIs impacted the current account, as well as the capital account.

Rupee down 23 paise against US dollar

The rupee depreciated 23 paise to close at 88.71 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, on broad strength of the American currency and fading odds of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

"... but we are quite confident that there will be a good trade deal (with the US). Hopefully, that should relieve whatever pressure has been there on our current account," he said, adding that the RBI has very good foreign exchange buffers, and hence, there is no need for concern.

In his speech, the governor spoke on various aspects of regulations and emphasised that the foremost priority of the RBI is financial stability. "So, you're all aware that while markets are very, very powerful engines of growth and efficiency, and as far as possible, we should leave the markets to decide and determine the course of action for all of us, for all the economic agents.

"We leave it to the markets, but we are all, at the same time, also aware that there are market failures, and that is where regulation comes in. So, for us in RBI, for all central bankers, in fact, financial stability remains the North Star," he said.

Observing that the RBI is always vigilant and alert to emerging risks, Malhotra said the central bank encourages innovation while being mindful of its regulatory objective of safeguarding systemic stability.

"We are trying to simplify regulations wherever possible while maintaining the necessary safeguards and guardrails. We are strengthening coordination with all other regulators while at the same time respecting the jurisdictional boundaries," he said.

K'taka govt, VCs distribute Rs 400 cr to deep tech startups

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government, along with venture capitalists, disbursed Rs 400 crore funding to AI and deep tech startups at the Future Makers Conclave, at the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2025, on Thursday. Some of the VC firms include Rainmatter by Zerodha, Speciale Invest, Accel, Avaana Capital and Ideaspring Capital.

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the conclave was a simple step taken by the government to bring startups and VCs together to create the future makers of tomorrow. "These are the disruptors, innovators and future makers to inspire the rest of the country to solve real-world problems. We will ensure that the progress is accelerated. Together, we will build an ecosystem that is unmatched in the world," he told the conclave.

Kharge said the state has already facilitated Rs 786.43 crore in investments for deep tech startups and recently launched a Rs 663-crore Deep Tech Fund. With VC firms matching the government's commitment, the combined corpus has now crossed Rs 1,200 crore. He emphasised that government grants help early-stage startups transition to VC funding and pilot deployment.

About 11,000 attendees, including founders, entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, and ecosystem leaders were at the conclave. A total of 143 startups — Winners of the ELEVATE — were also announced. So far, ELEVATE has funded 1,084 companies with 390 Beyond Bengaluru. The three-day BTS event concluded on Thursday, with participation from more than 90,000 attendees from 57 countries.

LEASE OF LIFE

IndusInd Bank plans sweeping overhaul after investigation

BLOOMBERG

IndusInd Bank Ltd., one of India's largest non-state owned lenders, is preparing a sweeping overhaul aimed at boosting profitability and cleaning up underperformance, as its new chief executive officer seeks to boost return on assets following a governance shakeup.

The restructuring — expected within days — will "clean up" the organisation and lead to exits for low performers while not affecting headcount, Chief Executive Officer Rajiv Anand told *Bloomberg News* in an interview.

The bank will also channel more resources into artificial intelligence and expand its retail business to strengthen its balance sheet, Anand said.

Backed by Hinduja billionaire family, the bank has endured a turbulent stretch marked by a probe into a Rs 1,960 crore ($221 million) accounting discrepancy that triggered the departure of its former CEO and key senior executives. The bank reported losses for the second quarter and accelerated its bad debt write-offs from the previous three months.

India's fifth-largest private lender by assets has already replaced several executives in core control functions, including its chief financial officer, and added a new internal auditor and a strengthened assurance team, Anand said. A new chief risk officer will join by January as the current one retires.

Anand described the organization as having accumulated "organisational cholesterol," referring to inefficiencies and legacy processes that have slowed execution.

"In every organisation, there is regular restructuring where employees who are not performing as expected are let go. That happens everywhere, and it will continue to happen at IndusInd," Anand said, while clarifying that there will not be any large-scale layoffs at the bank.

IndusInd's shares have dropped about 12% this year, compared with a 9% rise in the S&P BSE Sensex Index.

IndusInd employs more than 44,000 people, with its network spanning across more than 3,000 branches across India.

The impact of the crisis has dragged on its profitability, leaving the lender's return metrics well below peers. The lender's return on assets - a financial metric that shows how profitable a company is relative to its assets - was at -0.33% in the three months through September, compared with 1.88% for larger peer Kotak Mahindra Bank. A negative ratio indicates that the bank lost money on its asset base during the period.

Anand has set a target of reaching 1% return on assets within 18 months, calling it the first milestone in the bank's turnaround. Hitting that target would show that the bank "is on the mend. Then we can reset ambitions."

He added the lender is "very well capitalised" and does not expect to raise new funds over the next two years, denying any talks to lure investment from global private equity firms.

While IndusInd traditionally focused on commercial vehicle loans and microfinance, the bank plans to expand its retail asset portfolio in home loans and lending to micro, small and medium enterprises to make earnings more predictable.

Wealth management will also be a key long-term growth area, Anand said, driven by rising affluence across smaller cities.

"IndusInd could be on the road to recovery" as it strengthens its balance sheet, said Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Sarah Jane Mahmud and Alison Hor in an October note. "Stronger systems and controls, amid a related ongoing fraud probe, could help quell governance concerns."

Gold declines Rs 600 on dollar strength, weak global cues

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold prices declined by Rs 600 to Rs 1,26,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday, due to weak global trends and a firm US dollar, according to marketmen.

The precious metal of 99.5% purity decreased by Rs 600, to Rs 1,26,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). Silver prices slumped by Rs 2,000, to Rs 1,58,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes).

"Gold prices declined on Thursday, impacted by a stronger US dollar and diminished safe-haven demand, following reports of renewed US efforts to end the war in Ukraine," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Gandhi said market sentiment further deteriorated after the US Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that it would not publish the October jobs report, leaving the Fed without crucial labour data.

"This development increased the possibility for the Fed to maintain the status quo in the December meeting, a perspective reinforced by the minutes from the October meeting, which indicated that many officials support keeping interest rates steady through 2025," he said.

In the international markets, spot gold slipped by $16.48, or 0.40%, to $4,061.53 per ounce. "Spot gold is trading with a loss at $4,060 level amid mild US Dollar strength," Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose by 0.03%, at 100.26. Spot silver was trading 1.22% lower at $50.73 per ounce.

"Gold and silver prices are consolidating, and market players are keeping their attention on impending economic data in search of additional hints regarding the direction of US interest rates," Renisha Chainani, Head - Research at Augmont, said.

5G subscribers in India may rise to 100 crore by 2031, says report

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The number of subscribers of the fifth generation (5G) telecom service, which was launched in India in October 2022, is likely to jump to 100 crore by 2031, from around 40 crore estimated by the end of this year, an industry report shows.

As per the latest Ericsson Mobility Report released on Thursday, 5G services account for around 32% of total mobile phone subscriptions in the country now. This is estimated to increase to 79% by 2031.

Mobile data usage per active smartphone in India is 36 GB per month, the highest globally, and is projected to rise to 65 GB per month by 2031. "5G is already today serving as the critical infrastructure for driving digitalisation in the country" said Ericsson India Managing Director Nitin Bansal, adding that the availability of affordable 5G fixed wireless access (FWA), customer premises equipment (CPE) and high-data consumption from FWA users is fueling the data traffic growth in India.

Globally, 5G subscriptions are expected to rise to 2.9 billion by 2025-end, accounting for roughly a third of all mobile subscriptions. By 2031, the number of 5G subscribers is estimated to rise to 6.4 billion, making up about two-thirds of all mobile subscriptions.

In geographical coverage terms, 2025 saw an increase of 400 million people worldwide being able to access 5G. About 50% of the global population beyond Mainland China is expected to have 5G coverage by the end of 2025, the report noted.

The 5G networks are expected to manage 43% of all mobile data by the close of 2025, up from 34% last year. As per the Ericsson Mobility Report, this number is estimated to increase to 83% in 2031.

Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) broadband continues to grow as a 5G use-case. The report forecasts that about 1.4 billion people globally are expected to access FWA broadband by the end of 2031, out of which 90% will be via 5G. The report also includes early forecasts for the sixth generation (6G) telecom services, which is yet to be commercially launched. Global 6G subscriptions are projected to touch 180 million (18 crore) by 2031. The US, Japan, South Korea, China, India, and the GCC countries are likely to be the front-runners in 6G deployment.

Reliance Consumer forays into pet-care market

BENGALURU, DHNS: Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG arm of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has venture into the Pet-Care market under the brand Waggies. The pet food is designed to make high-quality, science-backed nutrition accessible and affordable to pet parents across the country, the company claimed.

The Waggies portfolio is built on science-led formulations enhanced with herbs, DHA for brain development, essential vitamins, and highly digestible ingredients for holistic health, Ketan Mody, Executive Director, Reliance Consumer Products Limited, said in a statement.

Ketan Mody, Executive Director, Reliance Consumer Products Limited, said, "Waggies is formulated to deliver superior value - balancing enhanced nutrition with affordability. It comes with key benefits of extra protein, prebiotics for digestive support and it provides balanced all-day energy along with joint health, skin & coat health."

Deepwatch opens GCC in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deepwatch on Wednesday announced the official opening of its new office in Bengaluru as part of its global expansion strategy. The facility will serve as a key engineering and technology hub as the company continues to scale its research and development (R&D) capabilities.

This step enables the company to tap into India's vast pool of software, Agentic AI, and cybersecurity engineering talent. The Bengaluru GCC is designed to accelerate platform innovation and development velocity while maintaining the delivery models and support structures that Deepwatch customers rely on, the company said in a statement.

IN BRIEF

Mihika pockets U-13 title

▸ After enduring a tough opening game, Mihika Udupa **(in pic)** put up a strong show to defeat Lakshmi Aashritha 15-13, 11-8, 11-5 in the girls' under-13 final to pocket the title at the Karnataka State-Ranking Table Tennis tournament in Dharwad on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results (finals): Mihika Udupa bt Lakshmi Aashritha 15-13, 11-8, 11-5.

MSRIT emerge victorious

▸ Ramaiah Institute of Technology's (MSRIT) emerged champions in the men's and women's State-level Inter-Collegiate Floodlight basketball tournament, conducted by Basaveshwar College in Bagalkote from November 16 to 19, reports DHNS.

In the men's final, MSRIT beat RVCE 50-39, while in the women's final, they edged NMIT 40-37.

Results: Men: MSRIT: 50 (Kanishka 14, Adarsh 12, Chiranthan 10) Bt RVCE: 39 (Rohan 18, Harshil 8)

Women: MSRIT: 40 (Nakshatra 16, Aadhya Aital 10) bt NMIT: 37 (Sanjana 16).

Gandhigram ease past Leo

▸ Mahalingam S and Prakash Joshwa J sounded the board once each as Gandhigram Hockey Club defeated Leo Sports Club 2-0 in the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Result: Gandhigram Hockey Club: 2 (Mahalingam S 9th, Prakash Joshwa J 16th) bt Leo Sports Club: 0.

Najeeb, Davis in snooker final

▸ Sheikh Najeeb will lock horns with Sean Davis in the final of the State-ranking senior men's snooker tournament after the duo posted 5-3 and 5-2 wins in their respective semifinal encounters on Thursday, reports DHNS.

The final will be played on Nov 29.

Results (semifinals): Sheikh Najeeb bt Parthiban S 5-3 (16-83, 73-14, 79-36, 47-68, 62-23, 59-66, 83-41, 74-08); Sean Davis bt MS Arun 5-2 (63 (53)-18, 68 (67)-16, 73-19 (66), 30-24, 68-69, 38-69, 69-22).

Anahat, Joshna enter semis

▸ Rising Indian talent Anahat Singh and veteran Joshna Chinappa moved into the women's semifinals of the Daly College SRFI Indian Open squash, a PSA Bronze event, with commanding victories in Indore on Thursday, reports PTI.

Top seed Anahat breezed past German eighth seed Katerina Tycova 11-5, 11-1, 11-4, while Joshna brushed aside Spanish seventh seed Sofia Mateos 11-4, 11-6, 11-3 in the quarterfinals.

Seventh seed Ramit Tandon lost a close five-game quarterfinal to men's top seed Youssef Soliman.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st Ashes Test: Australia vs England **(day 1, 7:50 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

3rd ODI: New Zealand vs West Indies **(6 am). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Asia Cup Rising Stars: Bangladesh A vs India A **(3 pm)**, Pakistan A vs Sri Lanka A **(8 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1.**

BADMINTON

Australian Open: Quarterfinals **(6:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Las Vegas GP **(practice 3: 7:25 pm; qualifying: 10:55 pm). LIVE** on **F1TV Pro, FanCode.**

CRICKET INDIA-SA TEST SERIES

TRUST CURATORS to do their job

A polite request is fine, but excessive involvement may cause confusion

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Eden Gardens pitch for the opening Test between India and South Africa became a major talking point after former India captain and Cricket Association of Bengal chief Saurav Ganguly revealed that it had been left unwatered for four days.

The lack of moisture caused the surface to dry rapidly and behave unpredictably. Balls kicked off from a length, others kept low and spinners extracted far more turn than expected. Against that backdrop, the sight of the centre square being watered on Thursday afternoon at the Assam Cricket Association Stadium, nearly two days before the second Test, offered a sense of relief.

Yet, that reassuring sight guarantees nothing. Pitch preparation is a game of educated guesses as extraneous factors have a major influence on how it will behave. Always at the mercy of weather, local geography and the nature of the soil, a curator can never promise a pitch that mirrors the exact expectations of teams or coaches. While making a pitch that suits the home team's strength is neither unusual nor unethical, how far one can stretch that privilege is a debatable topic.

While the opponents can raise a bogey of unfairness if the pitch allies with the home team's interests without adhering to the definition of an ideal pitch, the same team can be left red-faced if the visiting team comes out on top despite the not-so-ideal conditions for them.

The Indian test team has experienced this uncomfortable scenario more than once in the past year. The loss to South Africa in the first Test served as the most recent reminder, particularly because the pitch was believed to favour India. This raises a deeper question. Does spin still truly rank as India's greatest strength? Visiting spinners have repeatedly outbowled their Indian counterparts, and touring batters, schooled on consistent diets of seam bowling, appear more composed against Indian spin.

So has India's spin bowling, along with its batting against spin, declined enough to lose its status as the team's defining advantage? The answer is both yes and no.

In the era of IPL and T20 cricket, batters have deserted the traditional sub-continental way of playing spin -- stepping out of the crease, not necessarily to whack the ball, but to smother spin. Use of feet, rather than staying rooted at the crease, doesn't allow the spinner to bowl the lengths or lines consistently he wants to bowl. Similarly, spinners have become more defensive on largely batting tracks and a flood of white-ball cricket. The habits picked here, faster deliveries and flatter trajectories, are hard to unlearn in a tightly scheduled domestic and international calendar.

"The step-out game has reduced but some of the players, do it (still) but, there are very selective players, who prefer to do that," said India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on Thursday. "Footwork I mean, by judging the length, and playing front foot or back foot. Sometimes you see that, when turning track comes, people do get committed to front foot a lot more, and not going back or using the crease."

That said India's primary strength at home remains spin, but they can't solely depend on it to deliver results. While rank-turners like the one at the Eden Gardens narrow the gap between a quality spinner and an ordinary one, batting becomes a lottery in a game of small margins.

India need not look beyond their home series against England which they won 4-1 on wickets most which lasted four to four and half days after losing the first Test in Hyderabad. In a series dominated by spinners, who claimed 123 scalps, pacers weren't a mere a side show with 44 sticks. It wasn't a bad series for batters either with one batter (Yashasvi Jaiswal) amassing 700-plus runs, three 400 or more and three 315 and more.

Although the team management insists it does not seek extreme surfaces, the best approach is to trust curators with the responsibility they understand best. Gentle guidance is acceptable, but excessive instructions can cause confusion and may lead to results like the one in Kolkata. Curators know how to create a good cricketing surface when given a free hand. There are no precise formulae for pitches that are ironically referred to as tailor-made. Deliver the message and allow the curator to do what he knows best.

India's fielding coach T Dilip (third from left) checks on the pitch at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati while senior spinner Ravindra Jadeja (right) looks on during a training session on Thursday. PTI

Kotak launches spirited defence of Gambhir

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak put up a spirited defence of Head Coach Gautam Gambhir, who has come under heavy flak after the first-Test loss to South Africa, and wondered why no one was questioning batters' failures.

Sitanshu Kotak

The 30-run defeat in Kolkata was India's fourth Test loss at home in the last one year under Gambhir's stewardship.

Addressing the media ahead of India's practice session on Thursday, the former Saurashtra batter said: "Gautam Gambhir is being criticised... I am saying this because I am a staff and I feel bad. That's not the way. In the last match wicket, Gautam said that he took all the blame on himself because he felt that he should not blame the curators."

Kotak even went to the extent of accusing the criticism of Gambhir as the "agenda of some people" and claimed the team management didn't expect the Kolkata pitch to crumble so early.

"What happened in the last match, after a day, it felt like it was crumbling," he noted in what was nearly a four-minute monologue. "There was a little bit of soil coming off that was not expected. Even if the spin was expected, it was after three days or on the third day in the evening. Sometimes the weather (plays its role). Even the curator did not want it (to play like it did). No one wanted it to be like this."

Continuing, Kotak said he was surprised people were not questioning anyone other than Gambhir.

"No one is saying that this batsman did this, this bowler did that, or we can do something different in batting," Kotak said, referring to the batting collapse in the fourth innings.

Fitness test for Gill on Friday

India captain Shubman Gill will undergo a fitness test on Friday, the eve of the second Test, batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has indicated on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Gill had developed neck spasm on the second day of the opening Test in Kolkata and aggravated it while batting during India's first innings on the second day. The right-hander walked off the field, never to return as India remained a batter short in both innings.

"See, he is definitely recovering really well, because I also met him yesterday," Kotak said.

"Now, the decision will be taken tomorrow evening, because the physios and doctors have to decide whether, even if he is fully recovered, there's a chance of the spasm recurring during the match. That is very important."

"If there is a doubt, then I am sure he will rest for one more game because it won't help the team otherwise. A player like Shubman, and he's the captain so any team would miss him," Kotak added.

Gill hasn't trained since he left the field on the second day of the first Test, and while he is making a last-ditch effort to prove his fitness, his chances of playing the second Test remain slim.

England have spring in their steps

Injury-hit and ageing Australia could be ripe for the taking as Ashes kicks off today

REUTERS

Australia captain Steve Smith (left) and his English counterpart Ben Stokes pose with the Ashes trophy in Perth on Thursday ahead of the first Test. AFP

LIVE 7:50 AM STAR SPORTS

England head into Friday's Ashes opener in Perth with a spring in their step and a golden opportunity to strike the first blow in the five-Test series against an Australian team rocked by key injuries.

England have not won a first Ashes Test in Australia in nearly 40 years, nor beaten the hosts in Perth since 1978, but their opponents are vulnerable without front-line quicks Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

Not in selectors' darkest nightmares would the home side ever face the first "Bazball" offensive without inspirational captain Cummins and the metronomic Hazlewood.

Steve Smith will be stand-in skipper, while Scott Boland and uncapped Brendan Doggett are expected to replace the injured duo who boast 604 Test wickets between them.

Boland was England's nemesis during the 2021/22 series when he made a famous seven-wicket debut at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, helping Australia retain the urn with two tests in hand.

But England's batters hammered the Victorian quick on home pitches in 2023, setting up an intriguing showdown on a Perth Stadium wicket promising pace and bounce. England have played white-ball matches at the 60,000-seat venue but it will be their first Test after decades of playing -- and suffering -- at the WACA across the Swan River.

Their last eight Tests in Perth have all been defeats, with the most recent setback a bitter innings and 41-run capitulation in 2017 that saw Joe Root's team surrender the urn.

With only Root remaining from that dismal 4-0 series defeat, Perth will be something of a new frontier for Ben Stokes' squad, most of whom have never played a test in Australia.

England seamer Gus Atkinson, one of their many Ashes debutants, said he brought "no scars".

"I do think it's a good thing that a few of us are coming in with not too much experience yet," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Getting off to a positive start, if not a victory, will be vital for England's chances of winning back the urn.

They have not won an Ashes in Australia from 1-0 down since Len Hutton's team claimed the 1954/55 series.

England could hardly start any worse than the last series in Australia when Rory Burns was bowled for a golden duck by Mitchell Starc off the first ball at the Gabba.

Skittled for 147 on day one, England lost the Test by nine wickets and ended up crashing to another 4-0 series defeat.

Still menacing at 35, left-arm swing merchant Starc will lead the Australian attack again.

"Sadly, injuries and fast bowling happen," he said of Cummins and Hazlewood.

Women boxers dazzle with 7 gold

GREATER NOIDA, PTI

Indian women boxers, led by star pugilist Nikhat Zareen, lived up to their top billing to claim seven gold medals while Hitesh Gulia and Sachin Siwach also clinched the coveted yellow metal at the World Boxing Cup Finals here on Thursday.

The hosts finished with at least a medal in all 20 weight categories, signing off with nine gold, six silver and five bronze medals. On a day when 15 Indians took the ring, reigning world champions Jaismine Lamboria **(in pic)** (57kg) and Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti Pawar (54kg), world bronze medallist Parveen Hooda (60kg), former youth world champion Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) and Nupur Sheoran (+80kg) also struck gold.

Jadumani Singh (50kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg), Pawan Bartwal (55kg), Ankush Phangal (80kg), Narender Berwal (+90kg) and Pooja Rani (80kg) finished with silver medals. Neeraj Phogat (65kg), Saweety (75kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Jugnoo (85kg) and Naveen (90kg) signed off with bronze medals.

While the tournament field was depleted, with several top-ranked boxers skipping the event and powerhouses like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan sending third-string squads, the WBC Finals proved invaluable for Indian pugilists on the comeback trail like Parveen, Preeti and Arundhati, who used the platform to regain rhythm and confidence.

Jaismine delivered one of India's biggest wins of the competition, upstaging Paris Olympics medallist Wu Shih Yi 4–1 in a pulsating final. The Services boxer imposed her tempo early with flowing combinations and weathered late pressure with composure to seal a statement victory.

Having already beaten the reigning world champion earlier in the tournament, Preeti produced another stellar performance against Italy's Sirine Charrabi.

Indians endure mixed fortunes in Snooker WC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian teams enjoyed mixed fortunes on the opening day of the team event competition of the World Cup of snooker in Muscat, Oman on Thursday.

While former champions India A, comprising Pankaj Advani, Aditya Mehta and Brijesh Damani, began their campaign with a 3-0 annihilation of Oman A, India B went down 1-3 to France.

Three-time IBSF champion Advani began the demolition job in Group F with a crushing 80-4 win over Omar Sultan. Although Advani didn't come up with a big break, his rival didn't have the wherewithal to test the Indian ace.

Mehta, who was part of the team along with Advani when India last won in 2019, took his time to find his rhythm and range against Ahmed Alkhusaibi. Once he settled down, the Mumbaikar rifled in a frame-clinching break of 53 to put India 2-0 up. Damani then joined hands with Advani to defeat the pair of Sultan and Alkhusaibi 62-20 to complete the rout.

Results: Group A: France bt India B 3-1 (Gauvain Bazin It to Dhvaj Haria 0-134 (93); Nicolas Mortreux bt Hussain Khan 71-10; Bazin/ Mortreux bt Haria/ Hussian 60-56; Mortreux bt Haria 79-49).

Group F: India A bt Oman A 3-0 (Pankaj Advani bt Omar Sultan 80-4, Aditya Mehta bt Ahmed Alkhusaibi 73 (53) -1, Advani/ Brijesh Damani bt Alkhusaibi/ Sultan 62-20).

Pankaj Advani

Pranavi beats men to win IGPL title

MUMBAI, PTI: Pranavi Urs **(in pic)** got the better of overnight leader Karandeep Kochhar and created history by becoming the first Indian female golfer to win a professional tournament while playing alongside male players at the IGPL Tour here on Thursday.

Pranavi carded a stunning 8-under 60, which was the week's best card, at the par-68 Bombay Presidency Golf Club on the final day of the IGPL Invitational Mumbai. Making her IGPL debut, Pranavi, who was trailing Kochhar by two shots overnight, played efficient and solid golf with eight birdies, the last of which appropriately came on the 18th. She finished 14-under for the week as against Kochhar's 64 which ended with his second eagle of the day. Kochhar totalled 12-under.

Kochhar later lavished praise on Pranavi for pullling off a superb win.

Spain fight back against Czechs to reach semifinals

BOLOGNA (ITALY), AFP: Spain reached the semifinals of the Davis Cup on Thursday after coming back from one match down to beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in Bologna.

Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez beat Tomas Machac and Jakub Mensik 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (10-8) to seal Spain's passage to the last four, where David Ferrer's team will face either Argentina or Germany in the last four on Saturday.

Jaume Munar set Spain up to win the tie by beating Jiri Lehecka 6-3, 6-4 and levelling up the match after Pablo Carreno Busta was beaten by world number 19 Mensik 7-5, 6-4.

Jaume Munar

Spain's biggest star Carlos Alcaraz pulled out of the tournament on Tuesday with a hamstring injury suffered during his defeat to Jannik Sinner in the title-match of the ATP Finals on Sunday. The six-time Grand Slam champion said in the aftermath of that defeat that his hamstring hadn't affected him, even though it was strapped up during a medical time out.

Italy will face Belgium in the semifinals after winning both of Wednesday's singles matches against Austria in front of an enthusiastic crowd in Bologna.

Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli claimed straight-sets victories, making light of the absences of star players Jannik Sinner and Lorenzo Musetti.

Sinner and Musetti withdrew from Italy's title defence on home soil but the Azzurri were dominant even without two players ranked in the world's top 10.

Former Wimbledon finalist Berrettini comfortably saw off Jurij Rodionov 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) in one hour and 35 minutes.

Yaseen roars in Young Lions' win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohammed Yaseen's commanding 152, Raunak Kumar Singh's 98-run knock and Manoj Gowda M's haul of 5/10 saw Young Lions Club drain the joy out of Jolly Cricketers and race away to a massive 369-run win in the KSCA Group I, Division I, II and III Under-14 Inter-club tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Young Lions Club: 418/4 in 50 overs (Mohammed Yaseen 152, Raunak Kumar Singh 98, Saatvik Sanikop 39 n.o., Siddhanth Aryan V 68 n.o.; Anoop S 3-42) bt Jolly Cricketers: 49 all out in 19 overs (Manoj Gowda M 5-10, Dhruvdinesh TV 2-1, Thamish T 2-7).
Friends Union Cricketers, KGF: 84 all out in 42.3 overs (Utkarsh Agrawal 2-23, Tanish Bennuri 3-13, Kriday Taneja 3-7, Sudip Balaguru 2-9) lt to Jayanagar United Cricketers: 85/3 in 14.3 overs (Arya Kumar Takur 2-19).
Social Cricketers: 260/1 in 50 overs (Ryan Tomar 125 n.o., Shaurya A Gowda 62, Hridaan Sai 41 n.o.) bt National United CC: 148 all out in 44.2 overs (Shreyas A Kanade 32; Vinjamuri Rushyanth 4-17, Vastvik Sharma 4-31).
Neptune CC: 213/7 in 50 overs (Joshua I Batchu 56, Nirav Murahari 33, Sandeep K Yadav B 31; Bhuvan R 3-30) bt Merchants CC (1): 149 all out in 45.2 overs (Krithik Naveen 32, Rachan Hegde V 30; HT Dhrupad 2-19, Kovid Asthana 3-19).
Swastic Union CC (1): 223/7 in 50 overs (Saachin Suresh Araganji 110, Samarth Suresh 60; Rivansh Mohapatra 2-33) bt Engrades CC: 165 all out in 44.1 overs (Rohit Sai Ketireddi 35, Sriganesh M 27; Vivaan Bhusad 4-27, Saathvik Doddavvari 2-10).
Vijaya CC: 245/8 in 50 overs (Ahaan Dash 74, Gagan R Metre 42, Pranav Jadagoudar 34; Rishi Rege 2-34, Jash Karia 3-47) bt Cambridge CC: 140 all out in 33.5 overs (M Kanishk Reddy 27; Aniket Chaturvedi 5-27, Ahaan Dash 3-22).
Minerva CC: 267/5 in 50 overs (Akhieera Allan W 85, Yug Sinh Jadeja 45, Surya MU 52 n.o., Vihaan Darshan Payappanavar 34 n.o.; Naksh CM 2-63) bt Bangalore United CC (1): 110 all out in 41.5 overs (SM Bhavith 33, Naksh CM 40; Rajveer Padam Mehta 3-25, Sathvik S Gowda 2-11).
Friends Union CC (1): 206 all out in 48.3 overs (Samar Modhe 69; Kruthik Narendra 3-33, Bhuvan Shekhar Gowda 2-31) bt Whirlwind Cricketers: 146 all out in 45.2 overs (Neeraj Mensinkai 39; Aditya Nagaraj Gorthi 2-22, Kaushik M 2-16, Samar Modhe 2-21).
Sir Syed Cricketers: 131 all out in 28.1 overs (Vismith KS 47, Naveena G 33; Ritvik 3-28, Abhay Chavan 4-8) lt to Malleswaram Gymkhana: 132/6 in 44.4 overs (Dhruv R 29, J Mohak Gowdaa 44 n.o.; Anirudh Saha 2-24).
Malleswaram United CC: 248/9 in 50 overs (Akarsh M Appinakatte 58, Sachit S Galatagi 106; S Raghav Surya 2-41, Arjun RA 3-25) bt Friends CC: 69 all out in 35.2 overs (Shishir 4-15, Jeevan G 2-6, Mihir Sudheer Nayak 2-2).

FOOTBALL KSFA SUPER DIVISION

Kickstart crowned

Satish Kumar's men clinch title after downing rivals FCBU 1-0

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kickstart FC celebrate after winning the KSFA Super Division League, beating FC Bengaluru United 1-0 at the BFS on Thursday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Having dropped the title in the final minutes of play last season, an unbeaten Kickstart FC wrapped the KSFA Super Division silverware in style as Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh's composed strike in the first minute helped them to 1-0 victory over title-challenging rivals FC Bengaluru United at a drums-beating Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

Head coach Satish Kumar's men headed into the fixture knowing that a point would secure them their first crown and a solid defensive show saw them put FCBU through the frustration sword, seeing the game through with a solitary goal.

Kickstart had to just hold onto their lead for all but the opening 20 seconds, and that is how long it took for Rakesh to strike the first and decisive blow.

The forward burst into the FCBU area through the left, pounced on a defensive error and calmly slotted in past the keeper Srijith R.

Despite conceding an early goal in a season-deciding fixture, FCBU found some steam and saw a few bright spells of attack but failed to breach the stubborn defences of a confident KFC, who already had one hand on the title.

FCBU continued to surge forward, desperate for the equaliser and the constant pressure turned into a chance but was headed over the bar from close range, making KFC breathe a little easy going into the break.

Shunjanthan Ragui and Dhruv Sharma looked to make a telling impact in the first ten minutes of the second half but without much vigour to trouble the KFC keeper Kabir Toufik.

FCBU then rang in the changes with attacking installments in Junain Kadvalath and Chunsaba Barium coming in. However, it was Kickstart's Goodwin Johnson who slipped through a delightful pass through the left to Rakesh, only for it to be cleared.

Tempers ran high during the death as a flurry of FCBU shots kept finding Kickstart players and also survived a few handball shouts.

FCBU found an opening in the final stages but it was cleared off by the diving Kabir.

Results: Kickstart FC: 1 (Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh 1st) bt FC Bengaluru United: 0; FC Agniputra: 3 (Crispin C Cleetus 12th, Samphrangshai Rani 28th, Mohammed Ajmal Sajjad 34th own goal) bt Rebels FC: 1 (Heiw Anbha Dkhar 87th); Bangalore City FC: 3 (Oka Zhimomi 38th, RS Lcis 56th, Shishir Shetty 85th) bt ASC & Centre FC: 0.

Bank of Baroda emerge champions

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Bank of Baroda brought out their A-game in the final of the State A Division League Championship, edging Young Orion SC 88-85 in a closely-contested final league match, at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Thursday.

Bank of Baroda, having gone into the half-time trailing Young Orion SC 41-49, put on a show in the second half to emerge champions, with their opponents not tightening the grip that allowed the winners back into the game in the last two quarters.

In the B division final, GST & Customs defeated Bharath Su 72-57 in a lopsided final to clinch the title, while the C Division finale saw MEG & Centre emerge champions, having beaten HBR BC 90-82.

Results: All Finals: State A Division: Bank of Baroda: 88 (Aaron 23, Karthikeyan 17, Anilkumar 17) bt Young Orion's SC: 85 (Shashank Rai 25, Gautam 23, Abhishek Gowda 17). **HT:** 41-49.

State B Division: GST & Customs: 72 (Vishnu 28, Bhuvan 21) bt Bharath Su: 57 (Akshay 22, Kanishka 21). **HT:** 36-23.

State C Division: MEG & Centre: 90 (Abhishek YP 41, Juval John 21) bt HBR BC: 82 (Shashidhar 26, Sai Sanketh 10). **HT:** 43-37.

Bank of Baroda, winners of the State A Division League Championship title, pose with their spoils. BACK ROW (from left): Navin, Nagaraj, Arvind A, Sanjay Raj, Stalin, Harish, Rajesh, Karthik, Mufeez. FRONT ROW: Sukesh, Clinton, Anil Kumar, Ashwiz, Aaron M and Dinesh at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday.
DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Race to the finish line intensifies

MANISHA MOHITE

After the ouster of all the 24 Indians amongst 206 in fray, Wei Yi **(in pic)** of China has now emerged as a favourite.

Yi is the only seed out of the top 15 who began this tournament. The FIDE World Cup format has never been too favourable for the 'favourites' and this time at Resort Rio in Goa, all the four semi-finalists are players who defied all odds, punched beyond their weight and knocked out higher rated players.

The top three finishers amongst Yei, Andrey Esipenko of Russia playing under the FIDE flag and the two Uzbeks Jakhovir Sindarov and Nodirbek Yakubboev are poised to make their debut at the Candidates Tournament scheduled next year in Cyprus.

The semifinal will comprise of 2 Classical games and ties resolved under faster time controls. Apart from the finalists, the two semifinal losers will feature in a Play off mini-match for the third and fourth place.

World Champion Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa were the three Indians who carried Indian hopes on their shoulders and their ouster has taken the sheen out of the event for the Indian fans who had gathered in Goa in large numbers. Incidentally, it was in 2002 that India hosted the World Cup in Hyderabad, albeit in a different format and India's Viswanathan Anand had won and sadly there won't be an encore this time.

The favourites have faltered and fumbled but on the plus side the World Cup in Goa may go down in history for revealing the future faces of chess.

Semifinal pairings: Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) vs Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb); Wei Yi (Chn) vs Andrey Esipenko.

Ayush Shetty

Ayush, Lakshya advance; Prannoy exits from Australian Open

SYDNEY, PTI: Young shuttler Ayush Shetty and former world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen advanced in the Australian Open in contrasting fashion to set up an all-Indian quarterfinal clash, while senior pros HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth made early exits here on Thursday.

The top-seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty too made it to the last-eight with an easy 21-18, 21-11 victory against Chinese-Taipei's Su Ching Heng and Wu Guan Xun in 37 minutes.

The Satwik-Chirag pair will take on the fifth-seeded Indonesian pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in the quarterfinals.

Shettygot the better of fourth-seeded Kodai Naraoka 21-17, 21-16 in a contest lasting 68 minutes.

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